

### What is an MPO?

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are federally required entities responsible for coordinating regional transportation processes and approving federal transportation funding for projects in metropolitan areas.

### What is the NYSMPO Association?

The NYSMPO Association is a coalition of the 13 MPOs in New York State that have committed to work together toward common goals. The Association works to advance initiatives through working groups (such as the Safety Working Group) and to pool financial resources for training, planning, and research.

### What is the Safety Working Group (SWG)?

The SWG is a coalition of MPOs, state, and federal agencies working to advance safety initiatives intended to preserve, maintain, and improve safety for all transportation facility users in New York State.

For more information regarding the NYSMPOs Safety Working Group and to review the full Safety Assessment Guidelines visit: [www.nysmpos.org/safety\\_working\\_group.html](http://www.nysmpos.org/safety_working_group.html).

Contact your local MPO at [www.nysmpos.org/locations.html](http://www.nysmpos.org/locations.html) for assistance in implementing a Safety Assessment program in your community.

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## SAFETY ASSESSMENTS

### EVALUATING SAFETY ON LOCAL ROADS

Safety Assessments can lower crash rates, reduce injuries and save lives. They have been proven effective in practice, easy to administer, and low in cost to implement.

In New York State, 60% of reported crashes and over half of the state's fatal crashes occur on local roads. Communities now have a cost effective and reliable tool to address safety.

The Safety Assessment Guidelines are a product of the NYS Metropolitan Planning Organizations' Safety Working Group. The Guidelines outline a process to improve safety on all types of local transportation facilities.

## WHAT IS A SAFETY ASSESSMENT

A Safety Assessment (SA) is a formal safety performance examination of an existing or planned transportation facility (e.g. road, intersection, sidewalk, multiuse path, or land use development) by an independent, unbiased, trained SA Team. The SA Team considers the safety of all users, analyzes and reports on safety issues, and suggests opportunities for safety improvement. It is a low cost tool to review and improve safety.



## SAFETY ASSESSMENTS HELP TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- What elements of the transportation system present a safety issue – to what extent, to which users, and under what circumstances?
- What opportunities exist to reduce or mitigate the identified safety issues?
- Are there low-cost solutions that would improve safety?

More than 75% of roads in the United States are under local jurisdiction. Application of the SA process to local roads and planned projects and facilities has the potential to bring about substantive improvements in transportation safety.

## The Safety Assessment Process

**Step 1:** Identify the Project or Existing Facility to be Assessed



**Step 2:** Select a Safety Assessment Team



**Step 3:** Conduct a Pre-assessment Meeting and Gather Background Data



**Step 4:** Review Background Data and Conduct a Field Visit



**Step 5:** Conduct SA Analysis and Prepare Report of Findings



**Step 6:** Present SA Findings



**Step 7:** Prepare Formal Response



**Step 8:** Implement SA Findings

## SA GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES

- Define the subject of SAs and their key elements
- Define a standardized step by step SA process to enable easy use by practitioners
- Introduce the SA stages
- Define general roles and responsibilities for conducting SAs
- Explain the SA approach for various project types and locations
- Define an SA Team selection process and the general SA Team requirements
- Provide standardized SA report formats
- Define procedures to promote and monitor the SA process
- Explain how to overcome challenges to implementing the SA process