



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# **Advancing Implementation of the Safe System Approach**

## **Orange County Workshop Summary**

*January 15-16, 2025*



### **Description:**

The Safe System Approach (SSA) has been embraced by the transportation community as an effective way to address and mitigate the risks inherent in our enormous and complex transportation system. It works by building and reinforcing multiple layers of protection to both prevent crashes from happening in the first place and minimize the human harm caused when crashes do occur. It is a holistic and comprehensive approach that provides a guiding framework to make places safer for people. The SSA represents a shift in thinking about safety. It acknowledges that humans make mistakes and focusses on human vulnerability to design and operate streets and roads to have redundancies in place to protect all system users.

To facilitate the implementation of SSA principles, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed three new resources for measuring and prioritizing the SSA - the Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy, the Safe System Project-Based Alignment Framework, and the Safe System Policy-Based Alignment Framework. The hierarchy and frameworks were developed through extensive research of national and international best practices. They were introduced, applied, and refined through a series of focus groups and pilot workshops. Practitioners are encouraged to apply the Safe System Project-based Alignment Framework to assess roadway locations and potential improvements through a SSA lens. Complimentary to the Framework, users may leverage the Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy as a tiered approach to selecting countermeasures and strategies that align with the SSA to reduce serious and fatal injuries.

The goal of this workshop is to introduce participants to the Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy and the Safe System alignment frameworks and discuss how Orange County, MetroPlan, and partner local agencies could utilize these tools to assess Safe System alignment in both infrastructure projects and agency policies. The first day of the workshop is in a classroom setting and provides an overview of the SSA and these new FHWA developed resources. The second day of the workshop involves a field review of a road segment in the morning, followed by an afternoon session to apply the Safe System Project-Based Alignment Framework to demonstrate how this resource can be used to help prioritize safety and equity through a SSA lens.



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**Agenda:**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**

9:00 - 9:15 AM	<b>Welcome, Purpose, Ground Rules, and Logistics</b> (15 minutes)	Mark Doctor & Doug Cobb
9:15-10:30 AM	<b>Overview of the Safe System Approach and the Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy</b> (75 minutes)	Mark Doctor
10:30-10:45 AM	<b>Break</b> – (15 minutes)	
10:45-11:30 AM	<b>Overview of SS Policy Based Alignment Framework</b> (45 minutes)	Doug Cobb
11:30-1:00 PM	<b>Lunch</b> (on your own) – (90 minutes)	
1:00-2:00 PM	<b>SS Project Based Alignment Framework + Other Tools</b> (60 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background and Overview of Aspects of Framework (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Exposure (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Likelihood and Risk Factor Walkthrough w/ Handout (30 minutes)</li> <li>• Severity (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Safety Prompts (5 minutes)</li> </ul>	Mark Doctor
2:00-2:15 PM	<b>Break</b> – 15 minutes	
2:15-3:00 PM	<b>SS Project Based Alignment Framework Example</b> (45 minutes)	Doug Cobb
3:00-3:45 PM	<b>Group Activity</b> (45 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Scenario (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Conduct Analysis on Existing Conditions (30 minutes)</li> <li>• Discuss Potential Mitigations (10 minutes)</li> </ul>	Doug Cobb & Mark Doctor
3:45-4:00 PM	<b>Wrap Up, Q&amp;A, and Field Review Details</b> (15 minutes)	Doug Cobb & Mark Doctor



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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16**

9:00 - 9:15 AM	<b>Day 1 Recap and Overview for Day 2</b> (15 minutes)	Mark Doctor
9:15-9:30 AM	<b>Logistics for Field Review</b> (15 minutes)	Mark Doctor
9:30 AM-12:00 PM	<b>Field Review</b> (150 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commute to Field (25 minutes)</li> <li>• Group 1 (South Side/Middle School – 1.1-mile loop): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Park at Highland Lakes Center and Regroup (20 minutes)</li> <li>○ Walk north on west side from North Shopping Center Driveway to Vernon, cross street, and head south on east side to Hiawassee to SR 50. (80 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Group 2 (North Side/Elementary School – 1.3-mile loop) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Park at Max Plaza Shopping Mall and Regroup (20 minutes)</li> <li>○ Walk south on west side from Silver Star Road to Hennepin Boulevard, cross street, and head north on east side on Hiawassee to Silver Star Road. (80 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drive back to Classroom (25 minutes)</li> </ul>	Group
12:00-1:30 PM	<b>Lunch</b> ( <i>on your own</i> ) <b>and Travel back to Classroom</b> (90 minutes)	
1:30-1:45 PM	<b>Field Review Summary and Regroup</b> (15 minutes)	Group
1:45-2:15 PM	<b>Discuss Potential Countermeasures within groups and discuss how it aligns with the SS Design Hierarchy</b> (30 minutes)	Group
2:15-3:15 PM	<b>Evaluate the Countermeasures in the Project Based Alignment Framework and Compare Results</b> (60 minutes)	Group
3:15-3:30 PM	<b>Wrap Up and Q&amp;A</b> (15 minutes)	Mark Doctor & Doug Cobb