

Improving Safety on Rural Local and Tribal Roads



Toolkit and User Guides

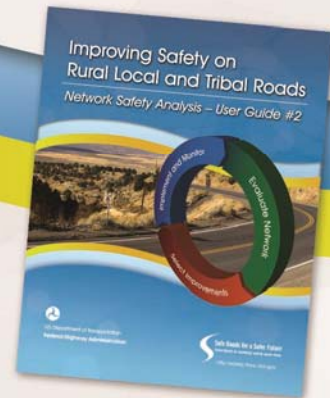
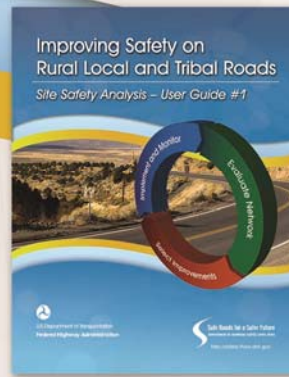
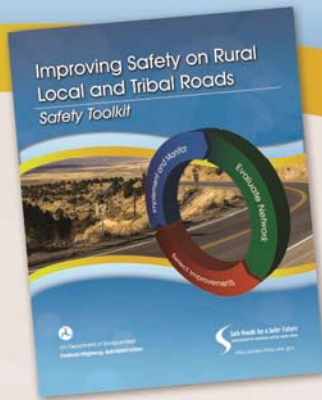
The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) **Improving Safety on Rural Local and Tribal Roads – Safety Toolkit** and accompanying **User Guides** are developed to help rural and tribal agencies address safety issues in an efficient and effective way on their roadways. The need for these resources is clear – staff in rural agencies are overwhelmed with a myriad of responsibilities including planning, landscaping, construction oversight, and maintenance. Opportunities to improve safety can often slip through the cracks in the busy world of rural transportation agencies even though they are keenly aware of the need to address safety on these roadways. According to FHWA, rural roads account for approximately 40 percent of the vehicle miles traveled in the U.S., but almost 57 percent of fatalities.

The Toolkit lays out, step by step, a safety analysis process and then provides the tools, examples, and resources to help apply that process. The User Guides give practitioners examples through hypothetical yet typical scenarios. Anyone who works on rural local, or tribal roadway safety can benefit from these resources. The plain language and real world examples make this user friendly product an easy reference guide for local and tribal practitioners who face traffic safety problems regularly but may not have the time or resources to fully address these issues.



The Toolkit Step-by-Step Approach

The toolkit's step-by-step process greatly increases the chance the information is understood and applied. The toolkit walks the reader through the process by providing descriptions of the tools, examples, guidance, and resources associated with each step along with suggestions for how the step can be implemented.



The User Guides

There are also two User Guides that demonstrate different aspects of the toolkit through the use of hypothetical, but real world examples.

- **Improving Safety on Rural Local & Tribal Roads - Site Safety Analysis, User Guide #1** concentrates on how to conduct a site specific analysis such as fixing a horizontal curve along one roadway. In this scenario, residents are complaining that travel speeds are too high on a curve in their community and have taken their concerns to community leaders who in turn ask the Public Works Department to study the location and come up with a solution. The Department, however, has limited resources to do the analysis.
- **Improving Safety on Rural Local & Tribal Roads – Network Safety Analysis, User Guide #2** describes how to conduct a safety analysis on a component of the transportation network such as all two lane road segments, or all stop controlled intersections. An example of this type of analysis may involve a question from a county commissioner on how to improve intersection safety following a particularly severe traffic crash such as one involving teenagers.

If these scenarios sound familiar then the Toolkit and User Guides are for you!

The User Guides and Toolkit also include sidebars with additional tips, technical definitions, and references to other resources. They provide background information and a context for users unfamiliar with the technical terms along with helpful information on other tools or optional and additional analysis that can be conducted.

More Assistance

Training on how to use the toolkit and user guides will be available in the near future. The Toolkit and User's Guides are now available online at http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/. For more information, contact Rosemarie Anderson at rosemarie.anderson@dot.gov.