

ROADWAY SAFETY INSTITUTE

Human-centered solutions to advance roadway safety



Overview

The users of our region's roadways are not as safe as they should be—or could be. In 2011, more than 4,500 people were killed on roadways in the six states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) that make up USDOT Region 5. The human and economic toll of traffic crashes and traffic-related fatalities remains too high, and solutions are needed for this and future generations.

The Roadway Safety Institute heeds this call for transportation safety improvements by drawing on highly innovative researchers located across Region 5. Driven by the goal of preventing crashes to reduce fatalities and life-changing injuries, the Institute conducts research, education, and technology transfer activities focused on human-centered transportation safety systems.

Led by the University of Minnesota, the Institute was established in late 2013 as the Region 5 University Transportation Center (UTC) to further the mission of the UTC program of the USDOT—advancing U.S. technology and expertise in the many disciplines that make up transportation at university-based centers of excellence.

Research

The Roadway Safety Institute conducts research that addresses both traffic safety system approaches and high-risk road users.

From the traffic safety system perspective, the Institute identifies critical areas where improvements can be implemented to promote safe driving behavior, prevent collisions when possible, and minimize their impact when prevention fails.

The Institute also addresses safety issues for high-risk road users, focusing on populations that are at a greater risk for fatal and serious-injury crashes.

Research topic areas

- Intersection safety
- Rail grade crossings
- Speeding
- Pedestrians
- Older drivers
- Bicyclists
- Impaired drivers
- Commercial truck drivers
- Tribal land travelers

For more details on specific research projects, see www.roadwaysafety.umn.edu/research.



Education and technology transfer

To improve safety on our roadways, we need to attract and prepare future transportation professionals and actively expand the knowledge of current practitioners. In addition, we need to ensure that the results of research are put into the hands of those who can use them.

The Roadway Safety Institute conducts education and technology transfer activities that include a fall weekly seminar series, quarterly newsletter, student travel awards, updates through social media, and a research conference for transportation safety practitioners, academic faculty and staff, state safety engineers, policymakers, and others.

- Seminars are available for streaming at www.roadwaysafety.umn.edu/events/seminars/
- Subscriptions to the *Roadway Safety Institute News* and Institute events can be found at www.roadwaysafety.umn.edu/publications/subscribe

About the Institute

Members of the Roadway Safety Institute are the University of Minnesota, University of Akron, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and Western Michigan University.

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