



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

National Roadway Safety Strategy & the Safe System Approach

NJTPA Local Safety Plans Webinar

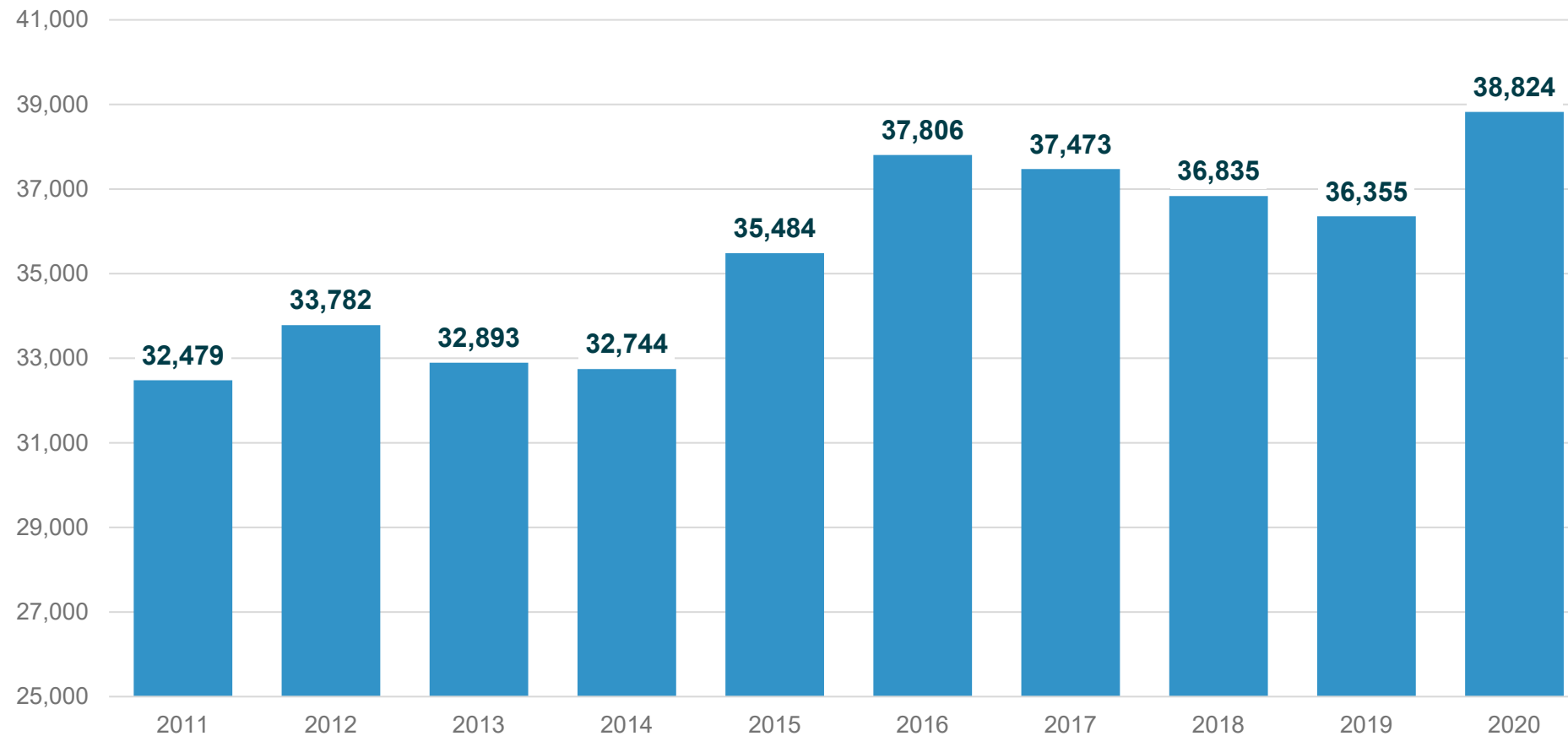
Virtual Webinar

Thursday, September 14, 2023 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET

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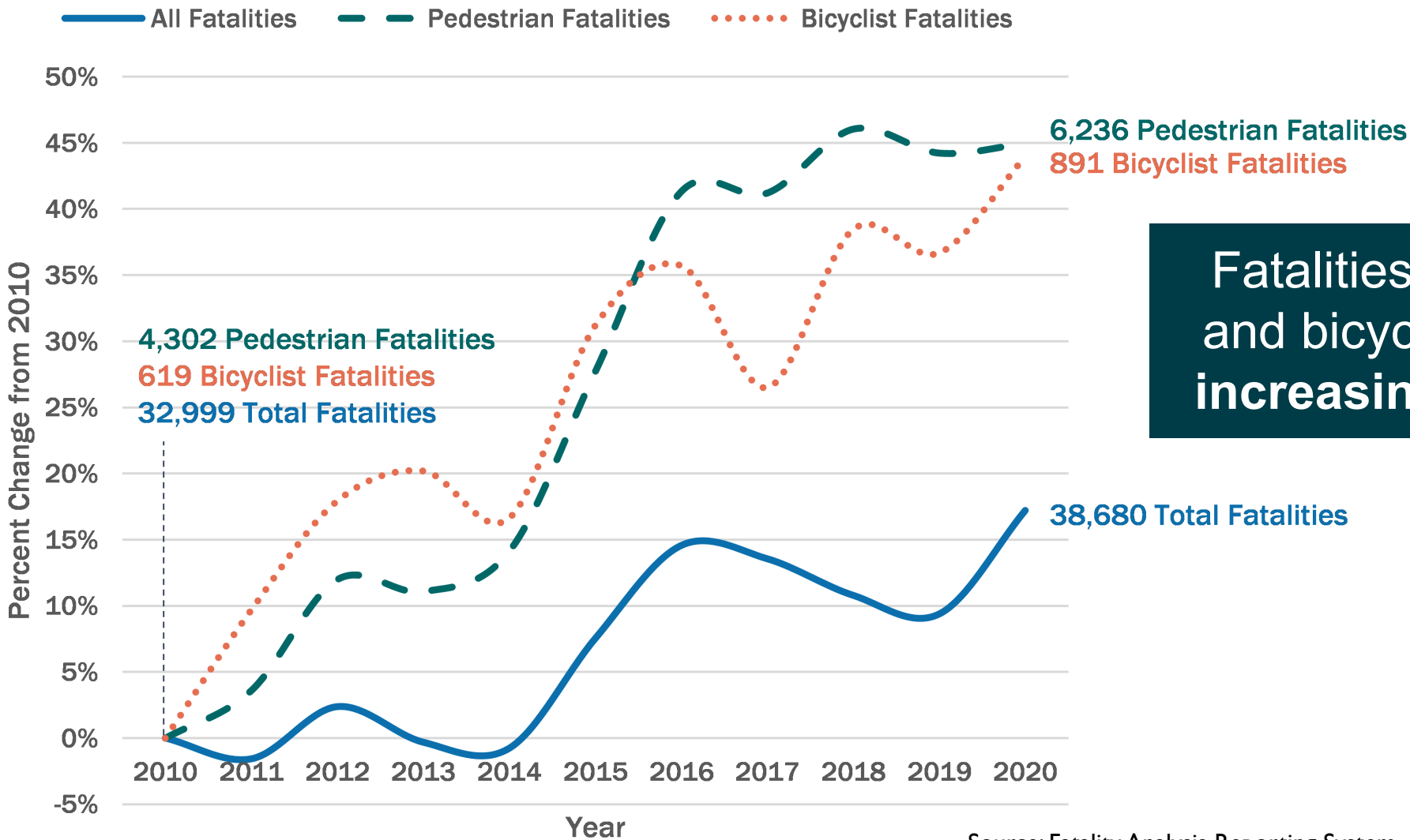
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THOUSANDS OF LIVES ARE LOST EACH YEAR



**Total US
Traffic
Fatalities**
2011-2020

WE HAVE A NATIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY PROBLEM

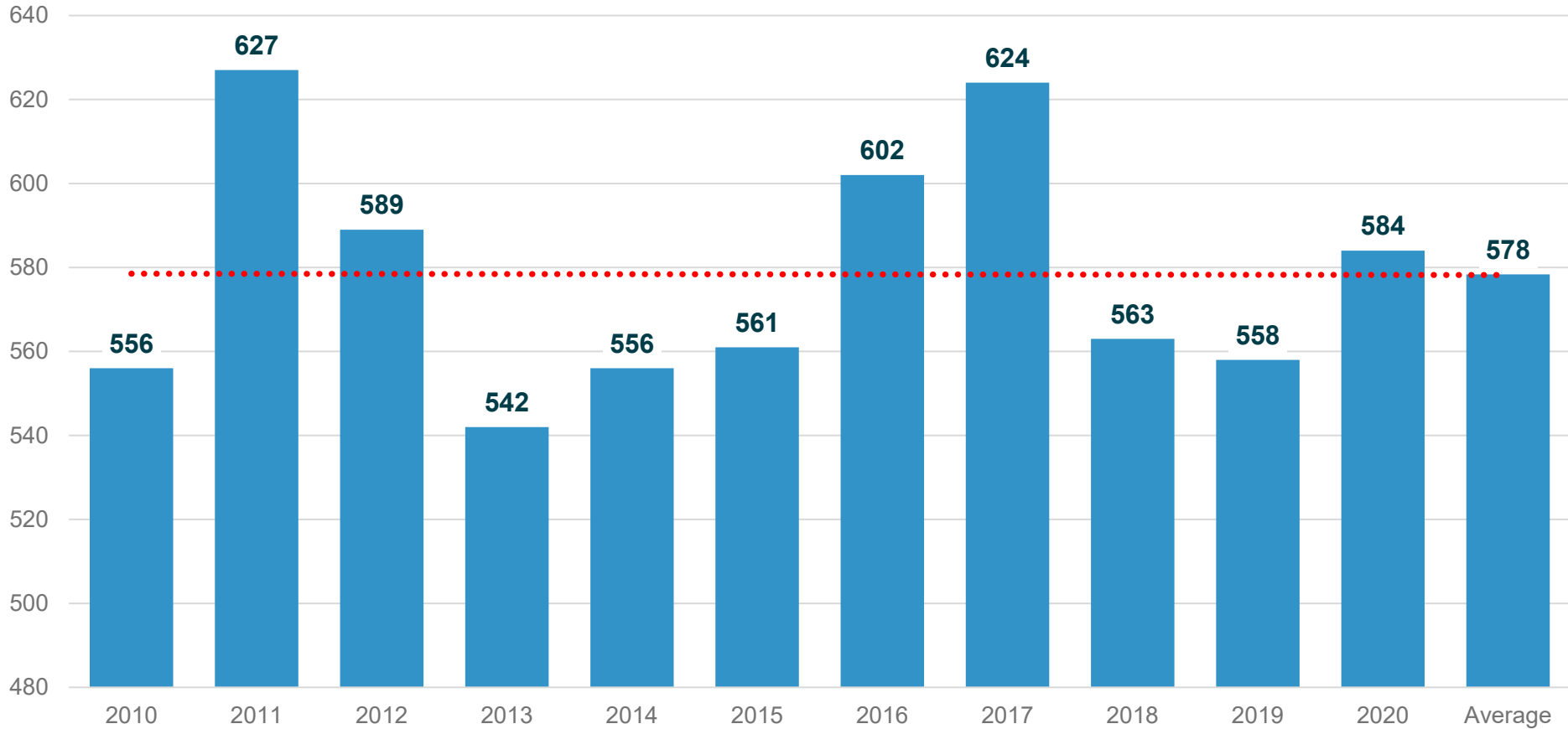


Fatalities of pedestrians and bicyclists have been increasing even greater

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System

Source: US DOT

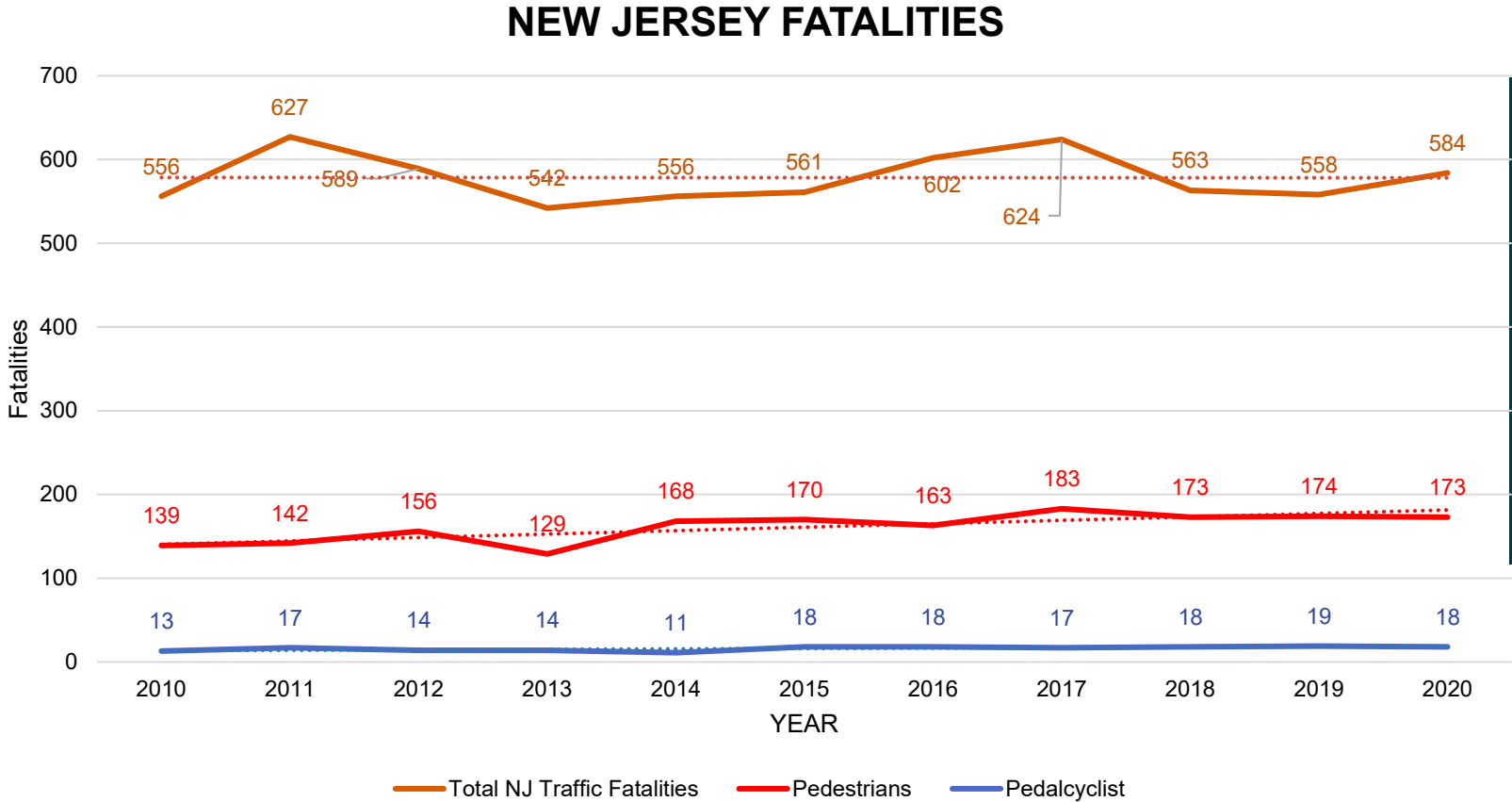
NEW JERSEY FATALITIES



Total NJ
Traffic
Fatalities
2011-2020

Source: NHTSA

NEW JERSEY FATALITIES- 10 YEAR TREND



10 YEAR TRENDS:

Pedestrian Fatalities have been increasing

Bicyclists & All Fatalities have been consistent

SAFETY CRISIS:

- We need a national change in mentality. It is time for a transformation in how people think about road safety.
- People should leave the house and know they're going to get to their destination safely.

Imagine our country as a place where *nobody* has to die from vehicle crashes.



Source: ZacharysCorner.com A street sign that reads "Zachary's Corner" currently marks the intersection at Derby and Warring in Berkeley, CA where young resident, Zachary Cruz, was killed by a vehicle in 2009 while attempting to cross the street with his daycare teacher. At the time of his passing, Zachary was two weeks shy of 6 years old.



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The National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS)

NATIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY STRATEGY (NRSS)

U.S. DOT's comprehensive approach to significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's highways, roads, and streets.

- ✓ Sets a vision and goal
- ✓ Adopts the **Safe System Approach**
- ✓ Identifies new priority actions & changes to existing practices
- ✓ Advances equity and climate goals
- ✓ Calls others to action

More information on NRSS found here: <https://www.transportation.gov/NRSS>



National Roadway Safety Strategy

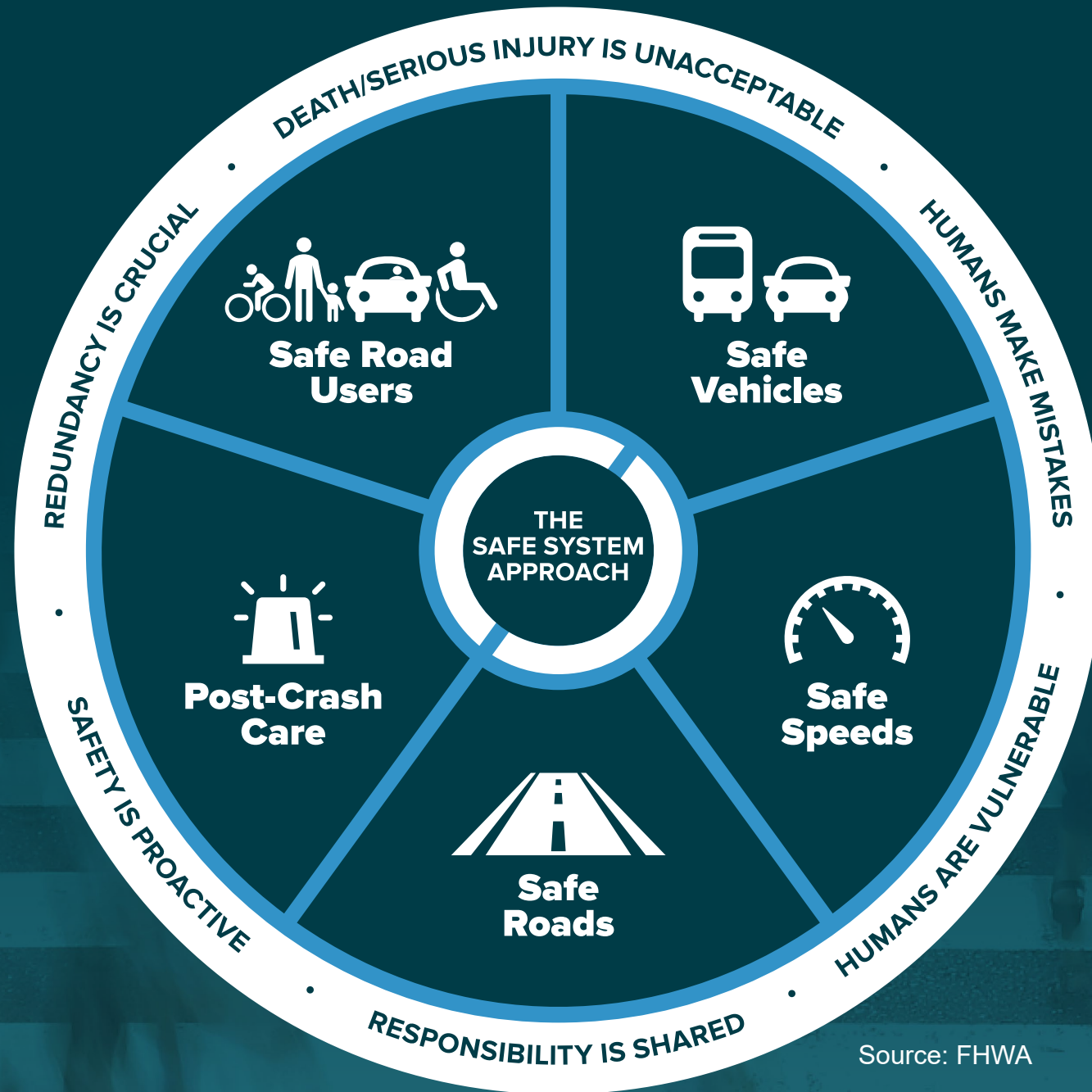
The USDOT adopts the **SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH**

Principles

- ❖ Deaths and serious injuries are unacceptable
- ❖ Humans make mistakes
- ❖ Humans are vulnerable
- ❖ Responsibility is shared
- ❖ Safety is proactive
- ❖ Redundancy is critical



THE SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH



Source: FHWA

THE SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH AS A GUIDING PRINCIPLE

PARADIGM SHIFT 



Involves a paradigm shift to:

- Improve safety culture
- Increase collaboration across all safety stakeholders
- Refocus transportation system design & operation anticipating human mistakes
- Lessening impact forces to reduce crash severity and save lives

A NEW PARADIGM

The Safe System approach aims to eliminate fatal and serious injuries for all road users by:



**Accommodating
human mistakes**

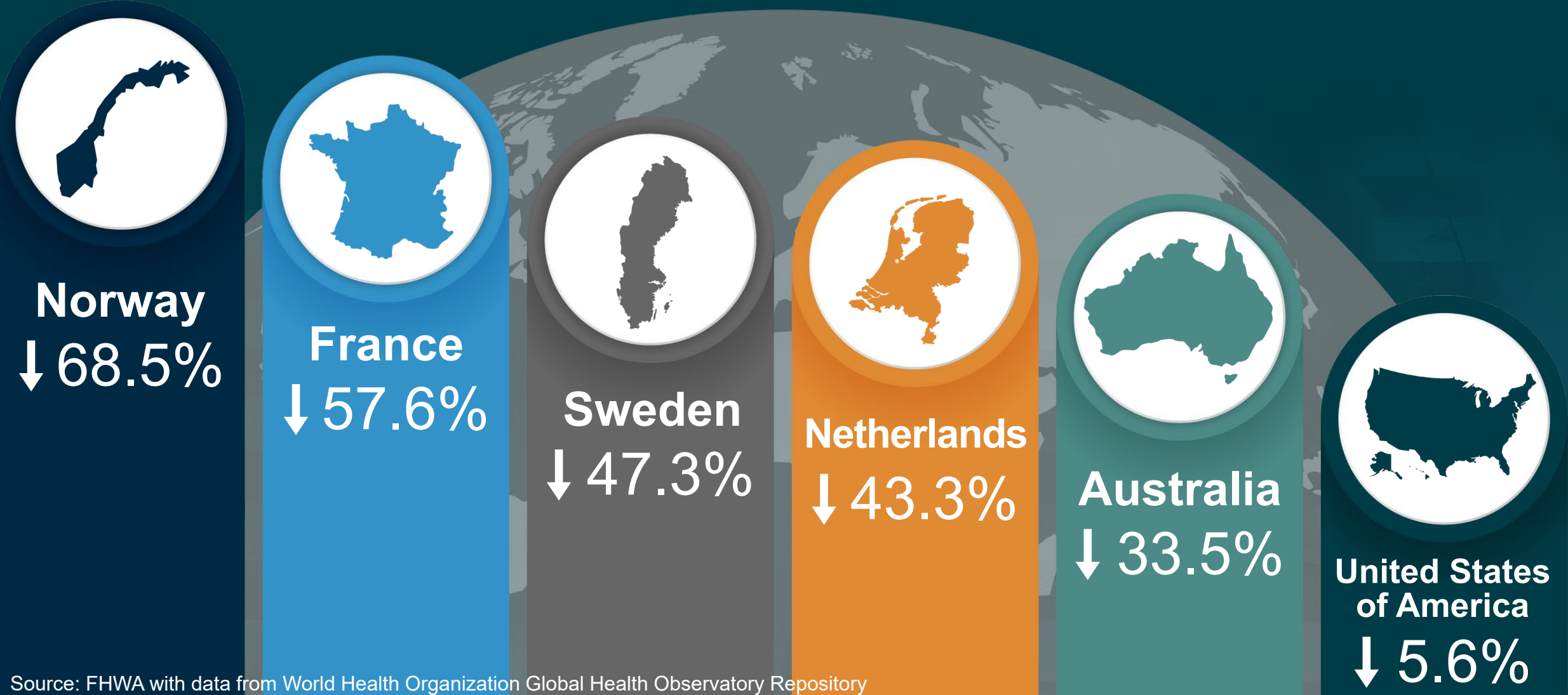
PARADIGM SHIFT ||



**Keeping impacts on the human
body at tolerable levels**

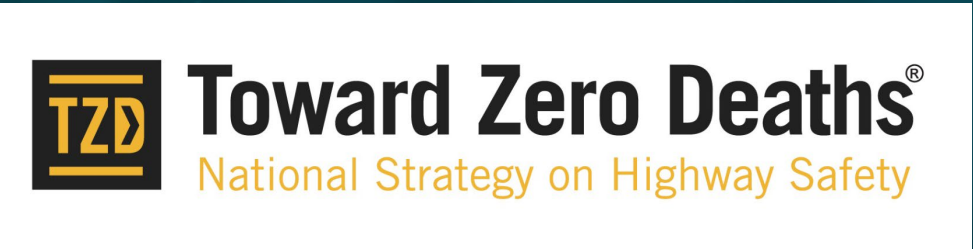
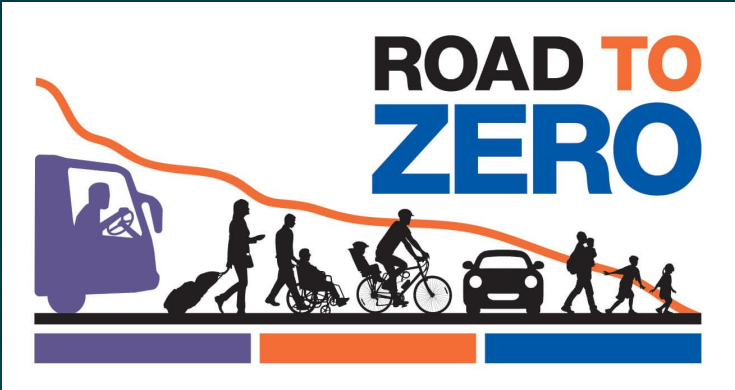
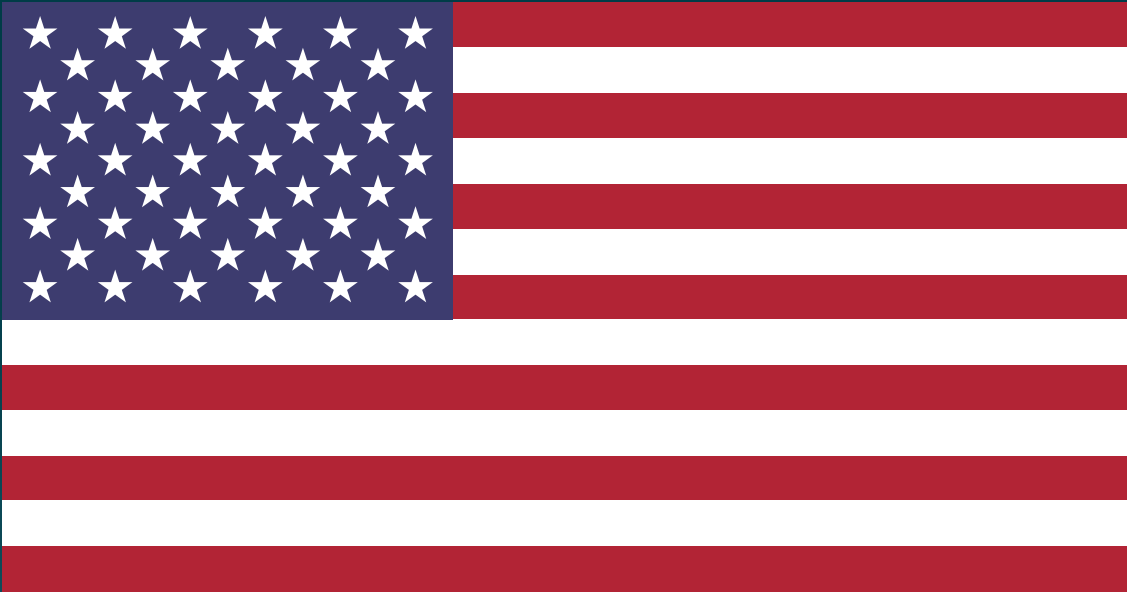
SUCCESSFUL SAFE SYSTEM ADOPTERS

Changes from 2000 to 2019.



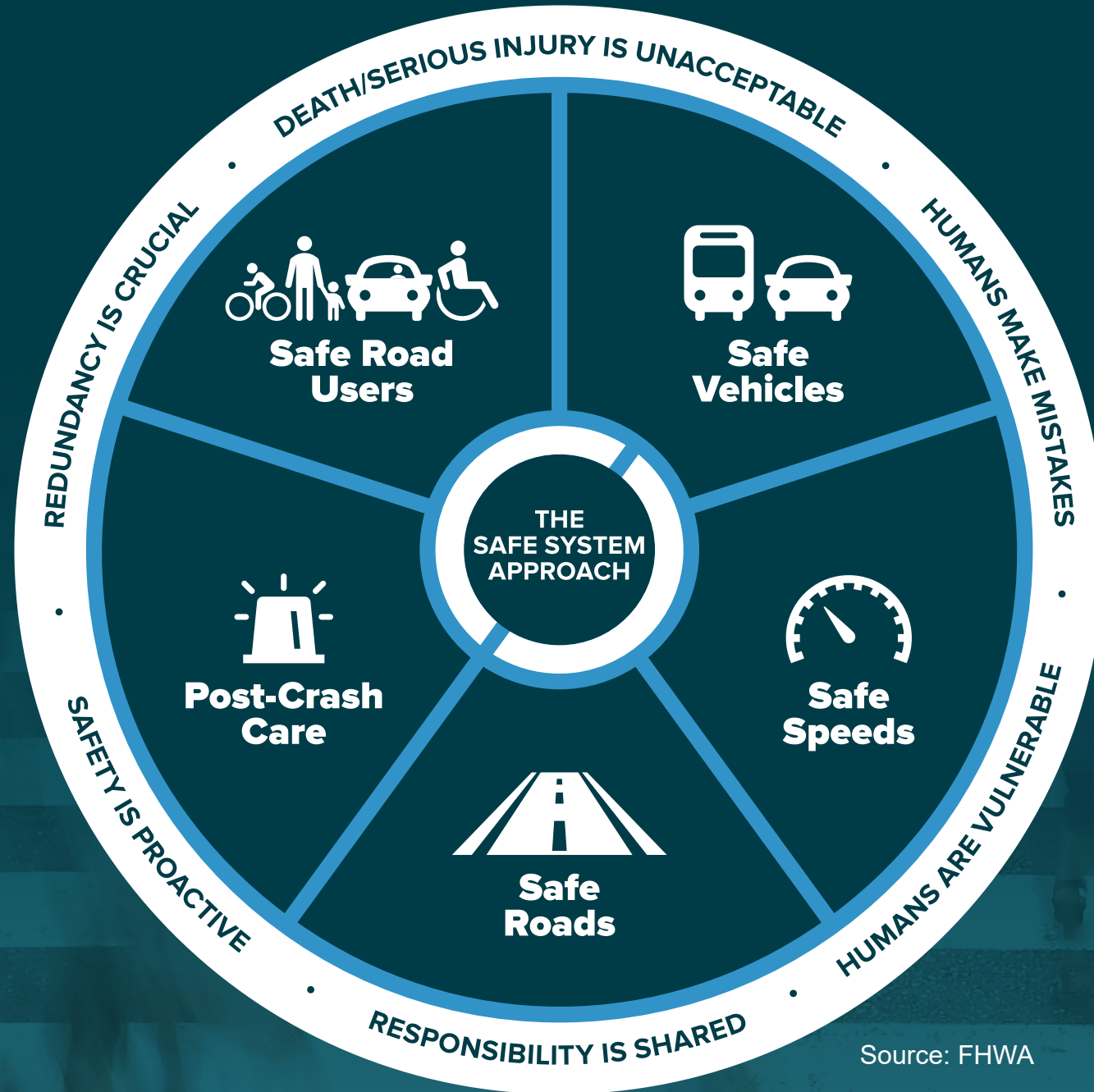
Source: FHWA with data from World Health Organization Global Health Observatory Repository

SAFE SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES



VISION 4 ERONETWORK

THE SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH



Source: FHWA

THE 6 SAFE SYSTEM PRINCIPLES



Death/serious injury
is unacceptable



Humans make
mistakes



Humans are
vulnerable



Responsibility is
shared



Safety is proactive



Redundancy
is crucial

THE 5 SAFE SYSTEM ELEMENTS



Safe road users



Safe vehicles



Safe speeds



Safe roads



Post-crash care

WHERE ARE YOU ON THE SAFE SYSTEM JOURNEY?

Traditional approach

Prevent crashes →

Improve human behavior →

Control speeding →

Individuals are responsible →

React based on crash history →

Safe System approach

Prevent death and serious injuries

Design for human mistakes/limitations

Reduce system kinetic energy

Share responsibility

Proactively identify and address risks

Knowing that if we work together and do this right, we will save so many lives. The nature of good safety work is that we won't know the names of the people whose lives will be saved by these efforts. But we will know that so many Americans who might otherwise have been an empty seat at the dinner table will instead be right where they belong. And who knows - the lives that you act to help save just might include your own.

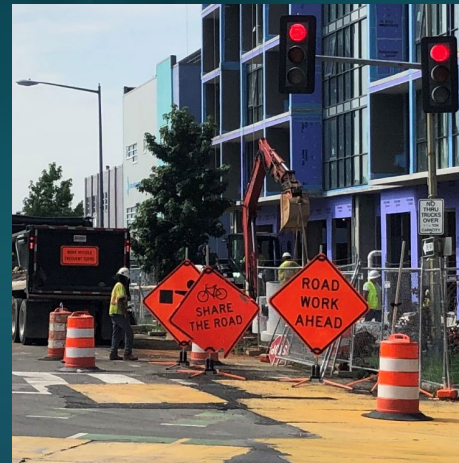
Secretary Buttigieg



Source: Fehr & Peers



Source: Arlington County, VA



Source: Fehr & Peers



Source: Fehr & Peers

FHWA RESOURCES

National Roadway Safety Strategies (NRSS)



Safe System Approach



Our goal is zero deaths; a country where, one day, nobody has to say goodbye to a loved one because of a traffic crash.

Secretary Buttigieg



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Federal Highway Administration

Thank you!

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