

# VT Agency of Transportation: Systemic Local Road Safety Program

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Senate Transportation Committee – February 4, 2025  
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# BACKGROUND

- “Systemic Local Road Program” is identified within the “Show Me The Money Guide!”
- Aligns with previous funding and authorization bill, SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy of Users)
  - Bill included a dedicated funding set-aside for HRRR (High Risk Rural Road) projects
- HRRR Projects are focused on improving safety on rural major and minor collector roadways and rural local roads.

# HRRR PROJECTS

- Safety improvements on rural major and minor collectors or rural local roads
- VTrans provided an initial screening of crash data and associated risk factors
- Identification of sites focused on horizontal geometry of the roadway
  - Site selection finalized through coordination with associated RPC (Regional Planning Commissions) and Municipalities
- VTrans Project Delivery Bureau would assume design and development responsibilities for the HRRR projects
  - Work with municipalities to obtain required Maintenance Agreements, Utility Clearances, and ROW (Right-of-Way) Certificate
  - Individual sites were “bundled” into larger statewide or regional projects
  - Projects were funded at 100% federal, with no local match or contribution
  - Scope of safety improvements were focused on traffic signs and guardrail
- Two statewide HRRR projects will be under construction in calendar year 2025
  - Includes sites selected across multiple years
  - Safety improvement on local roads within 36 communities

# EVOLUTION

- Recognition that many of the fatal and serious injury crashes that occur are on rural roadways
- Continuation of periodic screenings and identification of sites for inclusion in HRRR projects
- Investigate and consider additional ways in which safety improvements can be made on the local transportation network
  - Implementation of Local Safety Grants

# LOCAL SAFETY GRANTS

- Local road safety improvements grant opportunity for municipalities
- Simple improvements that will increase safety on the local roadway network
- Smaller dollar improvements, ranging between \$5,000 and \$35,000
  - Grants were funded at 100% federal, with no local match or contribution
  - Municipal management of project and of construction
  - Grants administered by the VTrans Municipal Assistance Bureau
    - VTrans assists in obtaining necessary project clearances
- 38 municipalities were awarded a grant, totaling close to \$1 million
- Municipalities are allowed to identify work within specific categories that would be beneficial to safety and to their community

# WORK EXAMPLES

Local Safety Grants identified categories of work that would be eligible including:

- **Curve Warning Signage**

- MUTCD Compliance
- Chevrons
- Delineators
- Advanced Warning



- **Intersection Signage**

- MUTCD Compliance
- Sight Distance Constraints
- Crash History
- Unusual Geometry



# WORK EXAMPLES CONTINUED

- Breakaway Devices
  - Ensuring roadside features are crashworthy



- Clear Zone Improvements
  - Removal of fixed objects

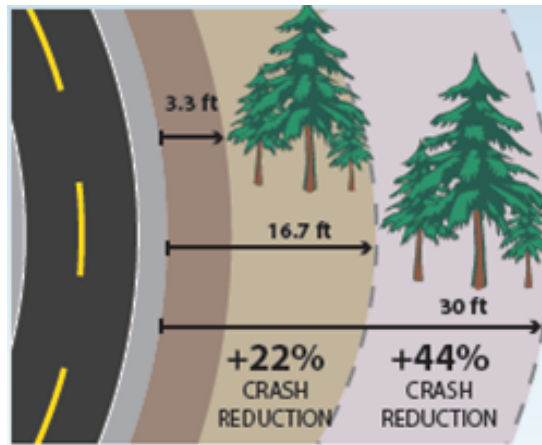


Figure 1. Crash reduction from clear zone widening.  
Source: FHWA.

# WORK EXAMPLES CONTINUED

- **Pavement Markings**
  - Add or enhance edge line pavement markings
  - Add or improve pavement markings at stop-controlled intersections



# NEXT STEPS

- Construction of two HRRR projects in the calendar year 2025 construction season
- Close Local Safety Grants
  - Understand challenges recognized by the municipalities when applying for and/or administering the grants
  - Understand why municipalities may have chosen not to advance work under the awarded grant
  - Identify additional safety categories that could improve safety and fit within the grant model
  - Identify process improvements that could increase efficiency in grant solicitation and construction
- Incorporating changes as identified above, advertise additional Local Safety Grant opportunities