



Welcome to the first edition of the SCP networking newsletter. The number one priority recommendation from the 2004 SCP Leadership Conference was to increase methods for communication among transportation planners, safety professionals and others. A newsletter was the most often recommended strategy for achieving the objective.

This initiative provides a method for sharing your information with a broader audience. Please send your suggestions for the newsletter format, style and content as well as information that can be included to Susan Herbel at [sherbel@camsys.com](mailto:sherbel@camsys.com).

*Welcome aboard!  
The Safety Conscious Planning Working Group*

**News from FHWA:**

On January 7, 2005, George Ostensen, FHWA Associate Administrator for Safety, issued a memorandum to the FHWA field reiterating the importance of safety as a national leadership priority. In the memorandum, several opportunities were highlighted to assure full consideration of safety for all road users in project development. Safety Conscious Planning was cited as the primary mechanism for considering safety during the planning process. Specific means of including safety in the planning process, as outlined in the memorandum, include the provision of crash data and analysis tools to facilitate project selection for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects, discussion of safety issues at public outreach meetings, and ensuring that Comprehensive Highway Safety Plans reflect programs and projects that can feed into long-range plan and STIP/TIP development. Opportunities were also identified for incorporating safety concerns during project development.

On January 24, 2005, FHWA's Office of Planning distributed a follow-up memorandum to field office planning staffs to complement the memorandum from the Office of Safety. This memorandum reiterated the importance of considering safety in the planning process and the technical resources available in the form of SCP forums and training.

For additional information on these memoranda contact Kathy Krause at [Kathy.Krause@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:Kathy.Krause@fhwa.dot.gov).

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**SCP Training Course**

A training course in Safety Conscious Planning is being delivered under the auspices of the National Highway Institute and the National Transit Institute.

Targeted toward State DOT and Metropolitan Planning Organization planners, as well as safety professionals, the objective of the two-day course is to provide training on incorporating safety into

the transportation planning process. Until the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) legislation was enacted in 1998, federal laws separately addressed transportation system safety and the transportation planning process. There is often a lack of understanding of how to incorporate safety into transportation planning, and many State DOT's and MPOs are not considering safety in a substantive way. This training serves to bridge that gap.

The 12 course modules include training sessions in visioning, goal setting and performance measure development; cultivating strong partnerships and collaborative relationships helpful for including safety in the transportation planning process; and data analysis methods and tools. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are offered to participants upon successfully completing the course.

To date the course has been offered in Virginia, Oklahoma, Missouri/Kansas (Kansas City), Nebraska, Wisconsin, Georgia and California. To request an offering, contact NTI at (732) 932-1700 or consult NHI's website at <http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/training.asp#host>

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### **Rural/Small MPO Domestic Safety Conscious Planning Scan**

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are leading a domestic scanning tour on Safety Conscious Planning to Albuquerque, NM and Des Moines, IA. The tour will take place April 11-15, 2005, and focus on SCP methods, activities, plans and programs for small metropolitan and rural areas. Eight representatives from small Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Councils of Governments around the country will participate in the scan. For more information, contact Fred Abousleman at NARC, at 202-986-1032, [fred@nasc.org](mailto:fred@nasc.org).

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### **SCP Subcommittee Meeting**

The Safety Conscious Planning Subcommittee held its fourth annual meeting during the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. More than 30 subcommittee members and friends attended the meeting which focused on research developments, training, outreach and communications. Presentations on current research focused on contrasting approaches to safety forecasting tools from the University of Arizona and Purdue. The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission gave a presentation on its development of a regional safety database. The Federal Highway Administration is engaged in training and outreach efforts, and developing a communications resource portfolio targeted toward decision makers and a transportation planners' version of the AASHTO Safety Guides. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SCP Leadership Conference resulted in networking and information sharing, technology transfer and state and regional input into the Safety Conscious Planning Working Group's Action Plan for 2005. A 2006 leadership conference is being considered. For more information, contact Kathy Krause, SCP Subcommittee Chair, at [Kathy.Krause@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:Kathy.Krause@fhwa.dot.gov)

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## SCP Forums

The Safety Conscious Planning Working Group began sponsoring forums in 2001. The purpose is to bring safety, planning and other transportation professionals together and begin a dialogue that leads to effective actions for integrating safety into the traditional transportation planning process. Twenty-one states have been engaged in forums resulting in the implementation of a wide range of collaborative strategies. Many forums lead to the development of a collaborative, comprehensive, statewide transportation safety plans. Several additional states will host SCP forums in 2005: Massachusetts (March 2); Montana Tribal Forum (June 6-7); New York MPO Forum (June 9-10); Wisconsin (TBA); and Nebraska (August 23-24). FHWA's Offices of Interstate and Border Planning and Safety provided planning, implementation facilitation, documentation and support for the forums. If you are interested in participating in and/or hosting an SCP Forum, contact Susan Herbel [sherbel@camsys.com](mailto:sherbel@camsys.com).)

## Large MPO Peer Exchange

A peer exchange among selected large urban area Metropolitan Planning Organizations, sponsored by the FHWA Office of Planning and hosted by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), will take place in Detroit, MI on May 4-5, 2005. The exchange will identify and document best practices in safety conscious planning in terms of visioning, setting safety goals; identifying appropriate performance measures; collecting and analyzing data; prioritizing and selecting programs and projects; evaluating results; and other actions designed to better integrate safety into the transportation planning process. The MPOs invited to participate with SEMCOG are the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Houston-Galveston Area Council, Mid-America Regional Council and North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. Michael Meyer, Georgia Tech University, and Susan Herbel, Cambridge Systematics, will facilitate the peer exchange. The results will be combined with the findings from the SCP domestic scan and other current initiatives to produce guidance for transportation planners. For more information, contact Sherry Ways at [Sherry.Ways@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:Sherry.Ways@fhwa.dot.gov)

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## Mid-Atlantic Meeting

To effectively identify and characterize safety problems, issues and challenges and to make successful safety investments requires access to crash and other safety-related data that are accurate and timely. In December 2004, NHTSA, FHWA and FMCSA jointly sponsored a meeting of the Mid-Atlantic States (Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia) to examine transportation safety planning and the state data systems used to support the planning processes. The meeting began with a discussion of the planning process, since safety conscious planning is a data driven process as well as a Department priority. The FHWA (Office of Planning), NHTSA and FMCSA provided support for the meeting. For more information, contact Beth Baker at [bbaker@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:bbaker@nhtsa.dot.gov) or Sherry Ways at [sherry.ways@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:sherry.ways@fhwa.dot.gov).

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## Best Practices

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) serves as both an association of city and county governments and as a metropolitan planning organization for the bi-state Kansas City region. To address regional transportation issues, MARC adopted a goal in 2002 to "... increase the safety, security, and well-being of the traveling public," which was initiated in Transportation Outlook 2030. By setting this goal and committing to incorporating safety in its regional planning efforts, MARC has proven itself as a leader in safety conscious planning. MARC's focus areas include: incorporating safety issues throughout the transportation planning process; teaching local and state officials how to design and implement safety-conscious transportation investments; providing decision-makers with the technical support they need to make effective safety investments; building a regional crash database; implementing countermeasures such as safe routes to school and bicycle safety programs and promoting partnerships and collaboration.



For example, MARC is working with both the Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation to develop statewide comprehensive highway safety plans. For more information, contact:

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