

Safety

One of the chief components—if not the primary component—of the federal SAFETEA-LU legislation was the emphasis on safety in the transportation planning process. Safety is, and should be, a daily concern for everyone involved in transportation. **The 2035 LRTP encourages all planning organizations to routinely and effectively consider safety as an explicit priority in all planning projects.** As the MPO, CMCOG is responsible for introducing safety into this LRTP but all planning organizations should routinely consider safety as an explicit planning priority in all planning projects. Decision makers at all levels should be informed about the implications of safety in all planning decisions, and safety should be reflected in their decision making process.

The safe preservation of human life far exceeds the cost of any transportation-related improvements. The following data shows the total fatalities and vehicle crashes in the region the last three years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>	<u>Crashes</u>
2005	93	17,999
2006	98	17,750
2007	87	17,570

There are various safety measures being implemented in the Midlands region by local, state and federal transportation agencies to help meet the goals of this LRTP in providing a safer transportation environment for the region, some of which include:

- Database collection
- SCDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)
- SCDOT Incident Response Plan
- Safe Routes to School programs
- Access Management strategies
- Older Driver Population strategies
- Alternative Transportation initiatives

Recommendations & Strategies

1. Minimize accidents and fatalities on our roadways for all motorized and nonmotorized users.
 - Work with SCDOT in identifying hazardous intersections and hazardous feature along key roadways.
 - Promote multi-modal travel choices (bus, biking, walking) in order to reduce the number drivers on roads.
 - Encourage transportation officials and local governments to reflect the increase in elderly drivers on roads in their policies and codes.
 - Work with stakeholder groups in finding more funding for safety personnel (traffic law enforcement, fire, EMS) and other safety programs, such as the SCDOT Incident Response.
2. Promote transportation safety in education outreach programs
 - Work with SCDOT's Safe Routes to School Coordinator in education and outreach on the advantages of having kids commute to school via bicycling and walking and encouraging area schools to seek SRTS funding.
 - Efforts will be made to bring non-traditional stakeholders (public safety, law enforcement, emergency services, etc.) to the table and use the expertise and experience of these stakeholders to provide a safer transportation environment.