

Regional Safety Action Plan

Equity Advisory Committee

November 7, 2024



Puget Sound Regional Council



We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.

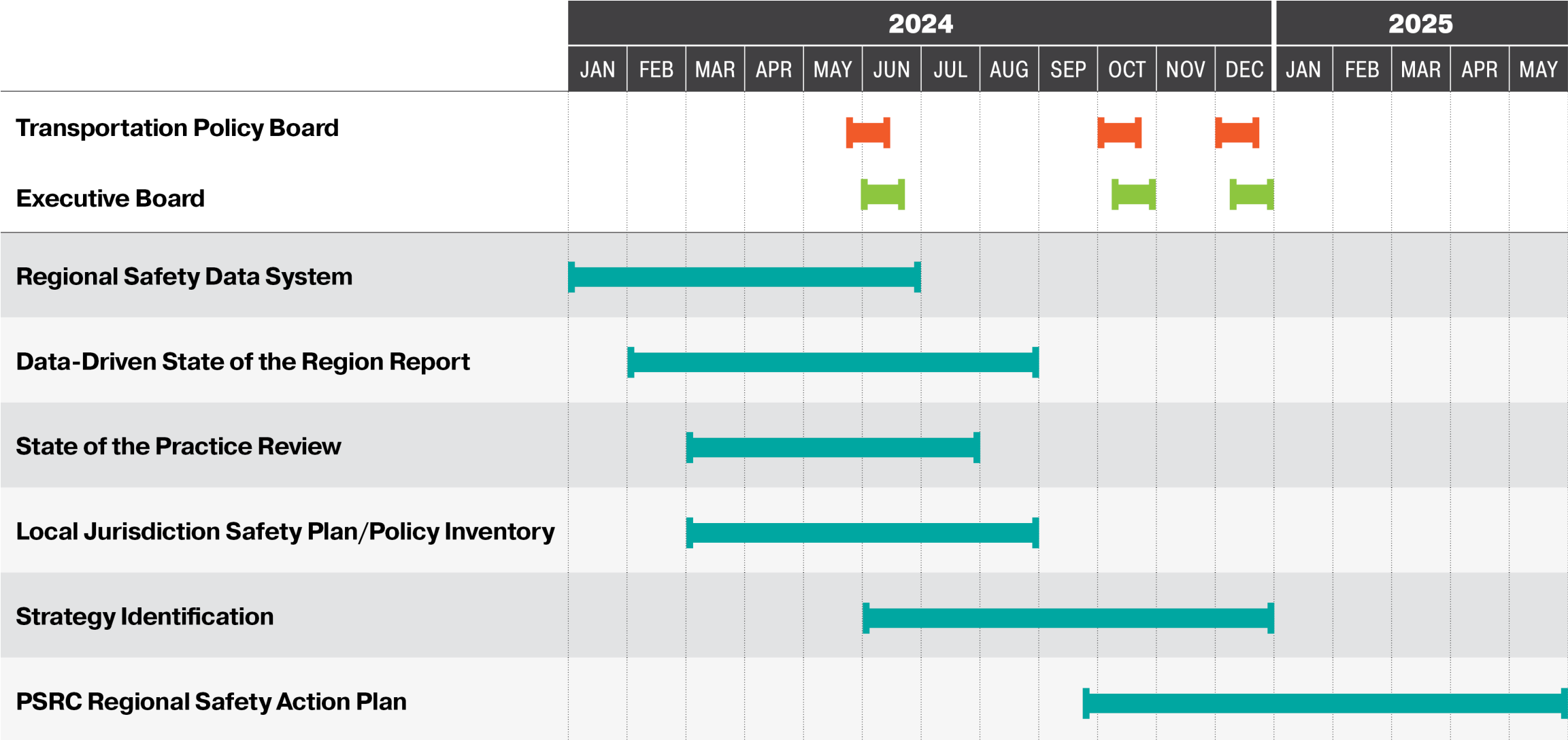
psrc.org/equity

Background

- Development of the Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) is underway
- Earlier this year, EAC was briefed on engagement efforts, data analysis and state of the practice work
- Today's presentation will focus on:
 - Summary of feedback from engagement process
 - Key findings and emphasis areas derived from the analysis
 - Feedback on preliminary strategies and tools for the plan



Schedule for Development of Plan



Key Findings from Data Analysis

- 1** Deaths on the region's roadways have **nearly doubled** in the last decade. This is the wrong direction, and unacceptable.
- 2** **Bicyclists and pedestrians** represent **nearly half of the increase** in deaths, **with pedestrians representing the vast majority.**
- 3** Crashes are happening everywhere – in all parts of the region, but **there are as many deaths in rural areas as in the biggest cities.**
- 4** Communities with **lower income residents have 37% higher** rates of serious injuries and deaths than higher income areas. Communities with **majority people of color have 32% higher rates** of serious injuries and deaths than the region as a whole.
- 5** Deaths and serious injuries are **70% higher in areas with a majority of both people of color and lower incomes** compared to the regional average.

Key Findings from Data Analysis

- 6** **Native American and Alaskan Native** community members are **seven times more likely to die** in crashes than white residents.
- 7** Mapping crashes shows **the most frequent** fatalities and serious injuries occur **on major arterials with higher posted speeds**.
- 8** The vast majority of crashes involve cars and light trucks. However, those involving **motorcyclists have a one in four risk of death or serious injury**, five times that of cars or trucks.
- 9** In crashes involving **light trucks and SUVs, pedestrian and bicyclist deaths are 43% higher** than crashes involving passenger cars.
- 10** The most frequent contributing factors resulting in deaths and serious injuries involve **speeding, impairment, distraction, and failures to yield**. Crashes may include multiple factors.

PSRC RSAP Public Involvement Calendar

**Community Events
& Interviews**

July 2024 – Sep 2024

**Online Engagement
Hub**

Sep 2024 – Spring 2025

**Regional Public
Meetings**

Sept 18 – Oct 1

Focus Groups

Late 2024

Internal Briefings

Through 2024

**Public Comment
Process**

January 2025

**Public Opinion
Survey**

Spring 2025



What We've Heard So Far



- Residents across the region are concerned about safety
- Unprotected users are top of mind
- Safety trends are concerning, but unsurprising

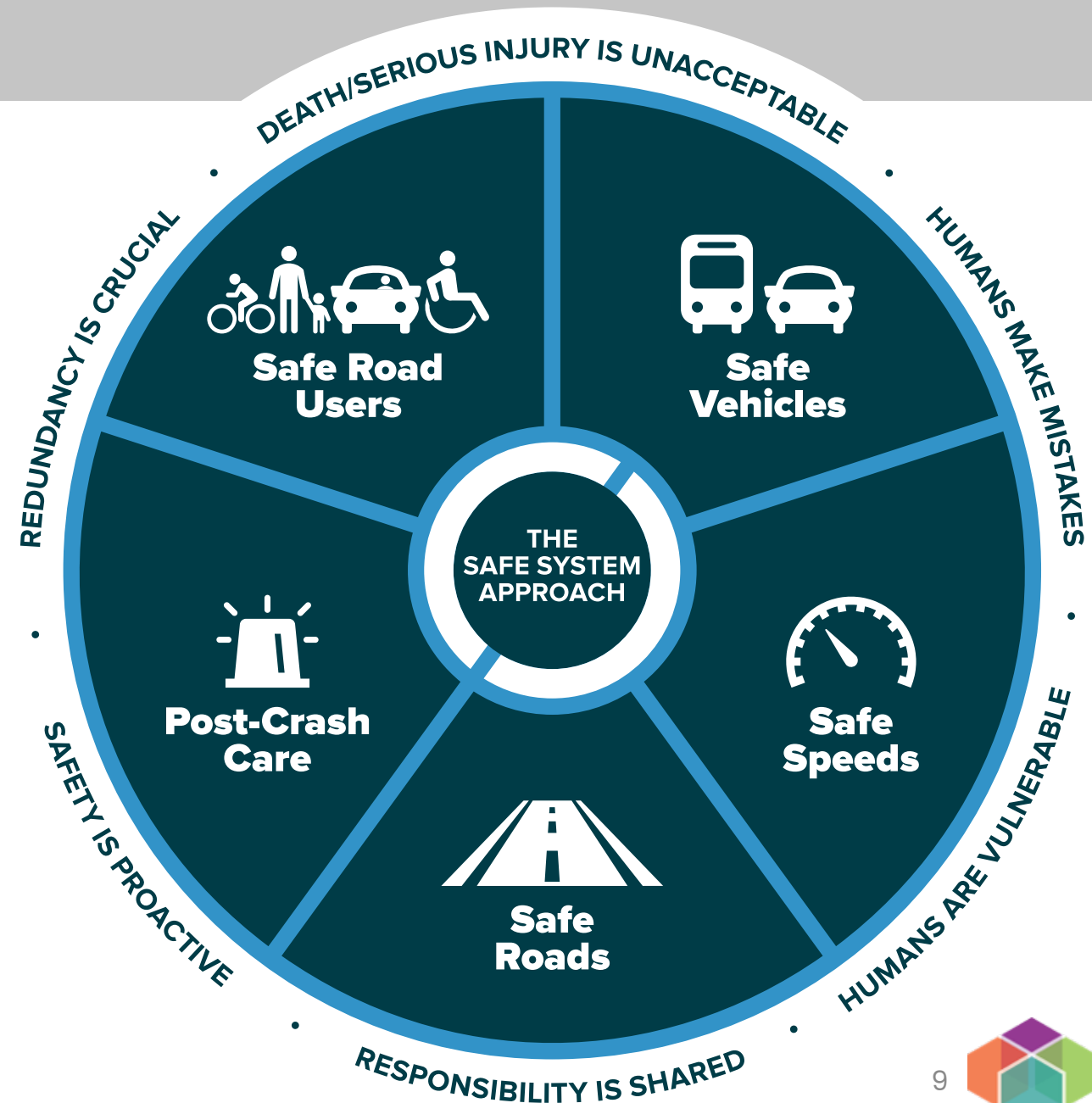
What We've Heard So Far



- Driver behavior is a concern
- Data sharing is key to driving solutions
- Funding is a challenge

Strategy development

- Strategies developed based on the Safe System Approach
- Strategies include a menu of options for jurisdictions to apply depending on local context



Emphasis areas

Urban, Multilane Arterials

Rural Highways

Tribal Areas

High-Capacity Transit Stations

Areas of Lower Income

Swift BRT High-Capacity
Transit Station



Crash types

For each emphasis area, the **most common crash types resulting in fatal and serious injury crashes** were identified.

The most common crash types for the identified emphasis areas include:

- Pedestrian
- Bicyclist
- Road departure
- Intersection
- Lane departure

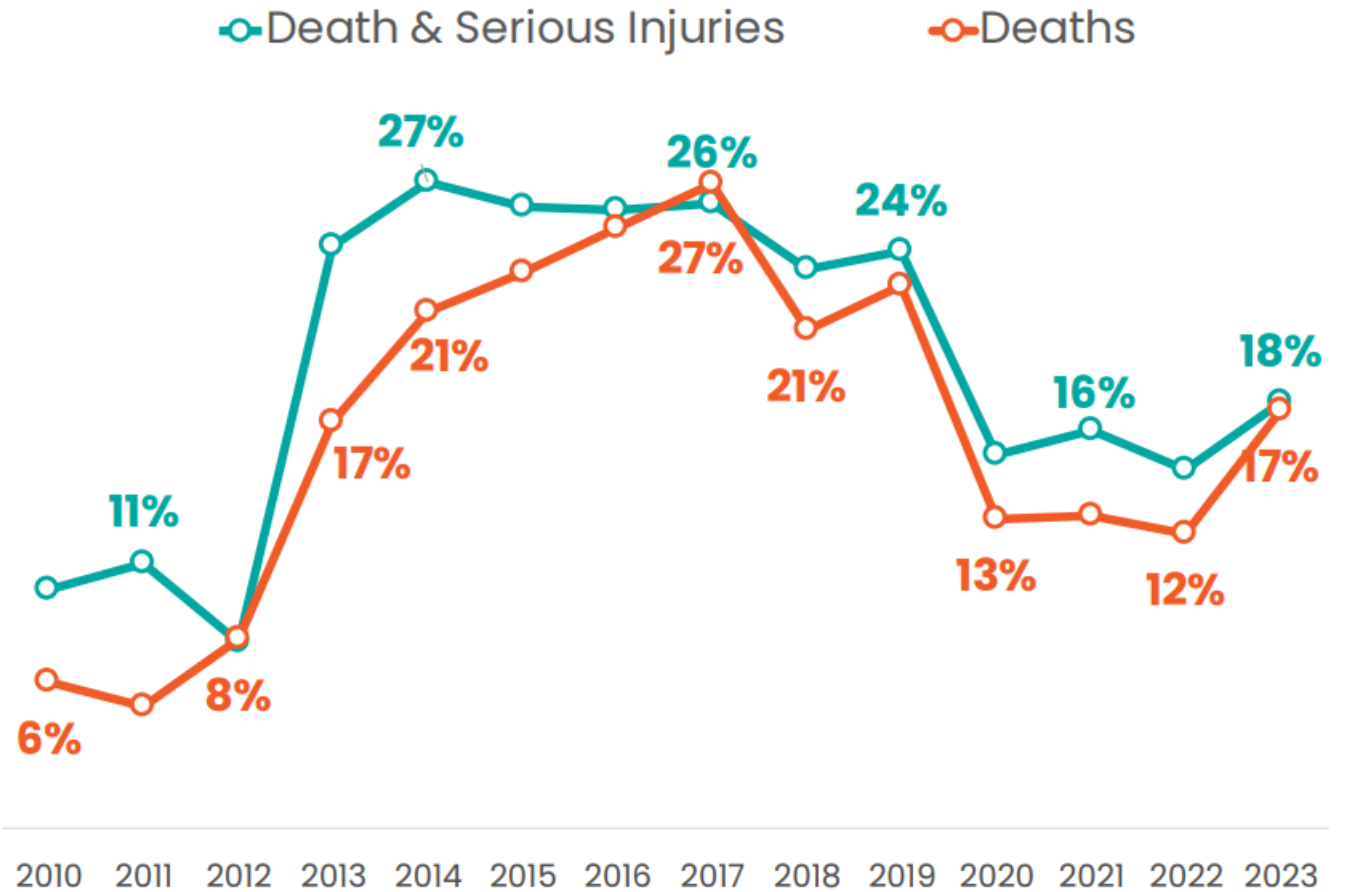
Contributing factors

Contributing factors are based on human decisions.

The predominant contributing factors in the region are:

- Speeding
- Impairment
- Distraction
- Failure to yield

Figure 20. Severe Crash Outcomes involving Distracted Drivers as a Percentage of All Crash Types



Source: State of the Region Report



Strategies

Which crash types are most associated with each emphasis area?

Emphasis Areas	Pedestrian	Bicyclist	Road Departure	Intersection	Lane Departure
Urban, Multilane Arterials	●	●	●	●	
Rural Highways	●		●	●	●
Tribal Areas	●	●	●	●	
High-Capacity Transit Stations	●	●	●		
Areas of Lower Income	●	●	●	●	



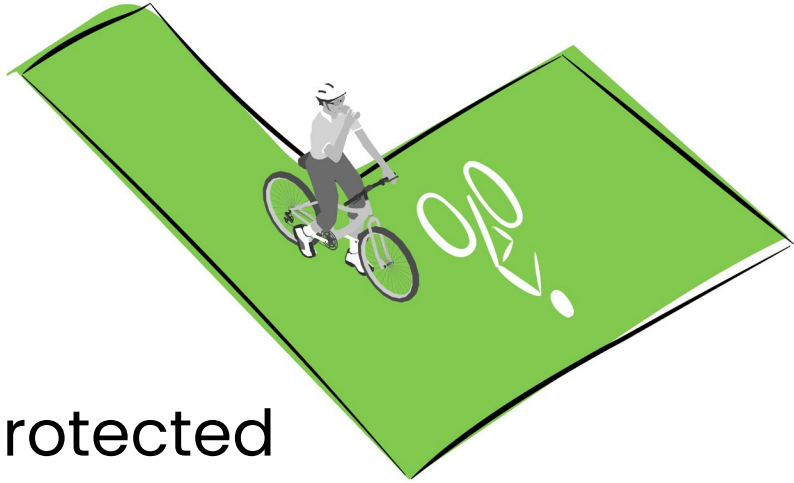
Strategies to address pedestrian crashes

Reference tables with strategies for each common crash type

Tools and Strategies

	Emphasis Areas					Contributing Factors			
	Urban Multilane Arterials	Rural Highways	Tribal Areas	High-Capacity Transit Stations	Areas of Lower Income	Speeding	Impairment	Distraction	Failure to Yield
Design / Engineering Strategies									
Advance Stop Lines	X		X	X	X				X
Hardened Centerline/Turn Hardening	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
High-Visibility Crosswalks	X	X	X	X	X				X
Leading Pedestrian Intervals	X		X	X	X				X
No Right on Red	X			X					X
Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHB)	X		X	X	X				X
Pedestrian Walkways		X	X						
Protected Crossing Islands	X		X			X			
Protected Signal Phasing	X			X					X
Raised Crossings						X			
Planning, Policy and Program Strategies									
Consistent Transit Treatments				X					X
Improve Connections Caused by Arterials, Highways, And Interstates	X	X	X	X	X				
Improve Lighting	X	X	X	X	X				X
Low-Cost, Quick-Build Strategies	X	X	X		X	X			X
Reduce Vehicle Speeds and Speed Limits	X	X	X	X	X	X			

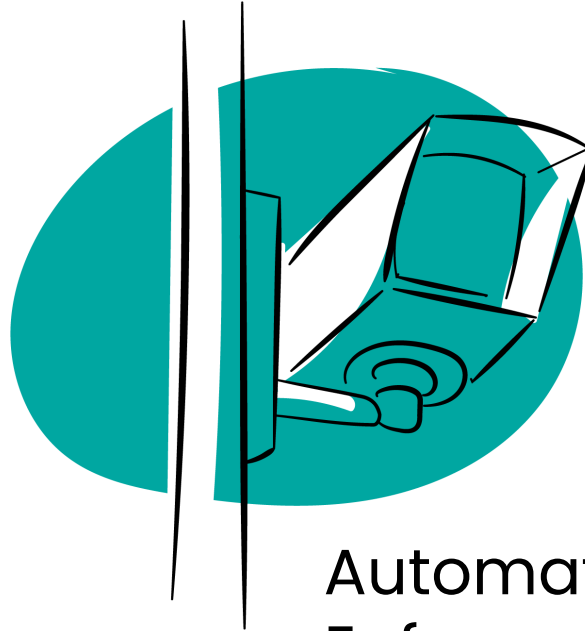
Proven safety strategies - examples



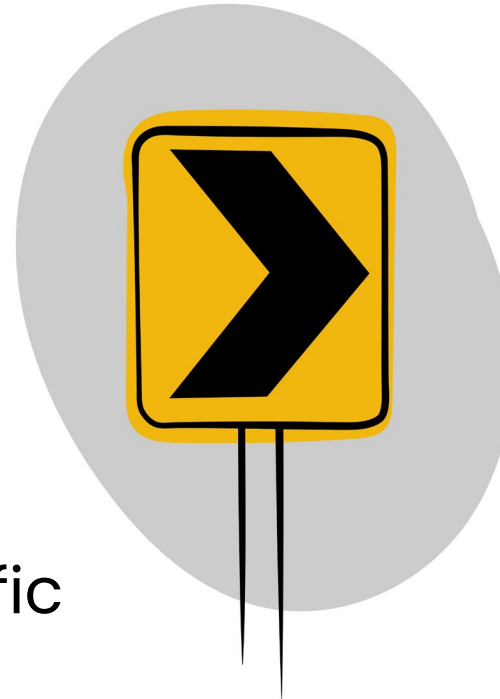
Protected
bike lanes
and bike
boxes



Roundabouts



Automated Traffic
Enforcement



Low cost,
high
effectiveness



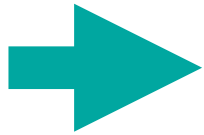
Strategy Example

Design / Engineering Strategies

and

Planning, Policy and Program Strategies

**Pedestrian
Safety**



High Visibility Crosswalks



Leading Pedestrian Interval
(LPI)

Safer Lighting

- Identify locations where lighting can improve road safety at intersections

Safer Connections

- Implement systemic countermeasures to lower vehicle speeds and establish safe, connected pedestrian networks



Questions?



Discussion

- What would an ideal, safe, and accessible transportation system look like?
- What specific changes would make you feel safer and more comfortable?
- What safety features do you wish your community had?

