

The Role of Research in a Safe System Approach

Zero is our goal. A Safe System is how we get there.

November 3, 2022

Secretary Buttigieg releases national plan



National Roadway Safety Strategy

United States Department of Transportation | January 2022



WASHINGTON, DC - November 8, 2021: Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg speaks during a briefing at the White House in November. (Demetrius Freeman/The Washington Post)

National Roadway Safety Strategy

- Addressing roadway safety requires a holistic, comprehensive approach
- Objectives correspond to the Safe System Approach elements:

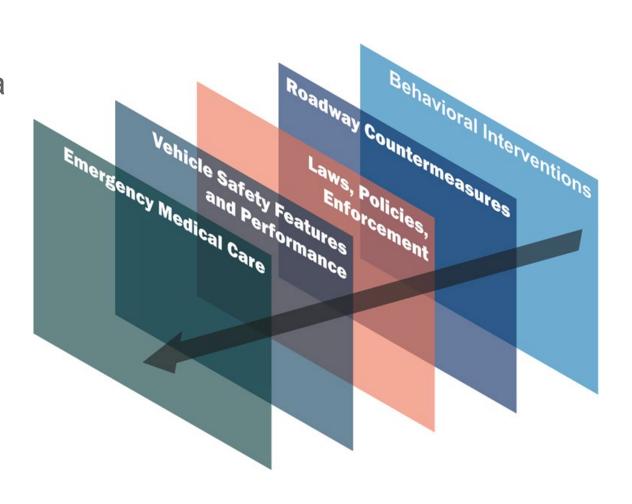
Safer People

Safer Roads

Safer Vehicles

Safer Speeds

Post-Crash Care



A New Direction

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



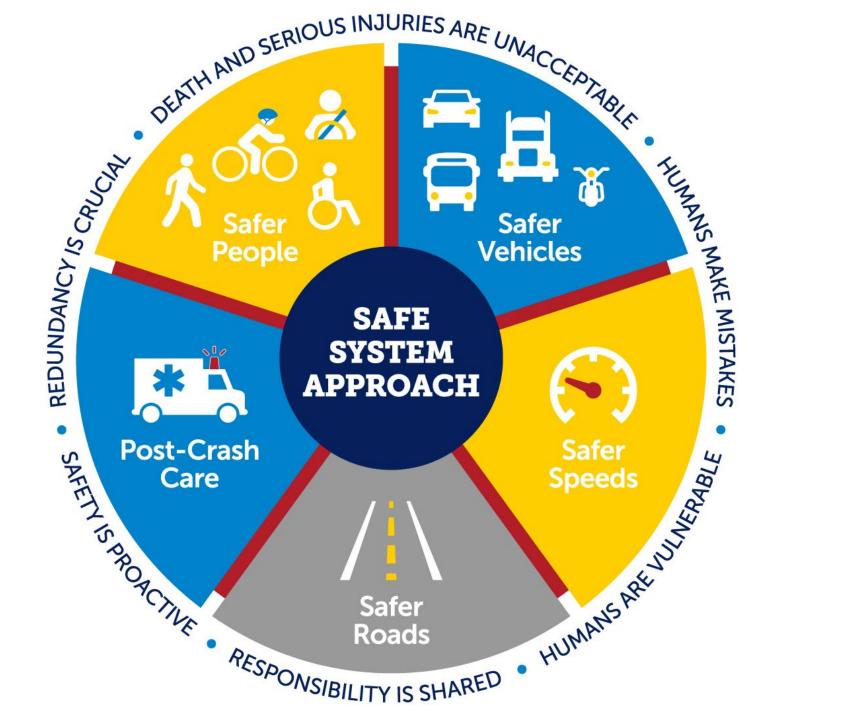
Accommodating human mistakes



Keeping impacts on the human body at tolerable levels

Paradigm Shift

Traditional approach	Safe System Approach
Prevent crashes	Prevent death and serious injuries
Improve human behavior	Design for human mistakes/limitations
Control speeding	Reduce system kinetic energy & addressing human behaviors
Individuals are responsible	Share responsibility
React based on crash history	Proactively identify and address risks



The 6 Safe System Principles



Death/serious injury is unacceptable



Humans make mistakes



Humans are vulnerable



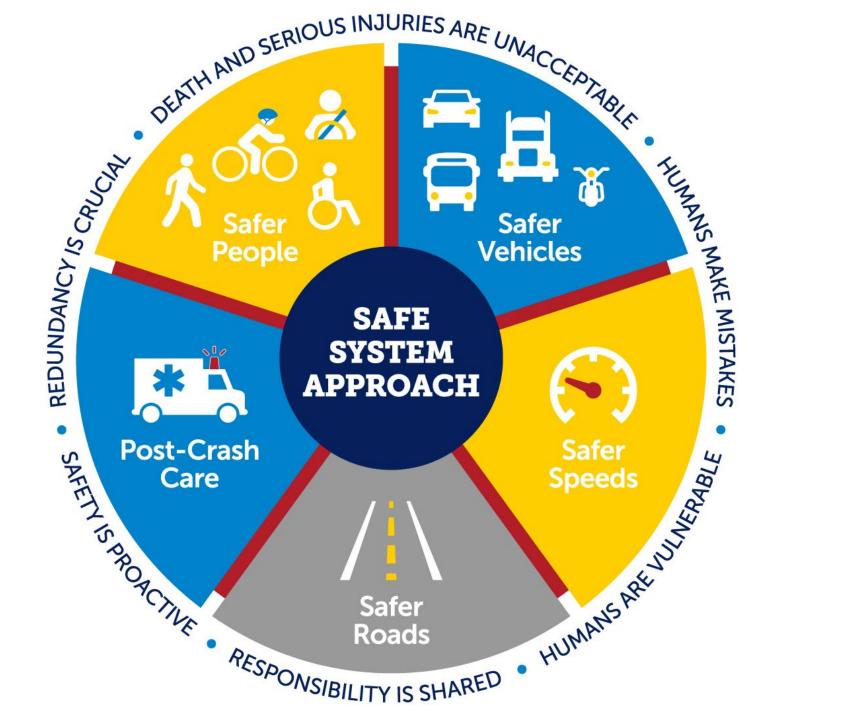
Responsibility is shared



Safety is proactive



Redundancy is crucial



The 5 Safe System Elements Create Redundancy

The "Swiss Cheese Model" of redundancy creates layers of protection

Postcrash

care

Safer roads

Safer roads

Safer speeds

Death and serious injuries only happen when all layers fail

