

2017 Research Symposium

& STIC Annual Meeting

Conduct of Road Safety Audit Reviews at High Crash Locations

STIC PROJECT TITLE

Road Safety Audit Reviews

STUDY TIMELINE

January 2015 – December 2017

PRINCIPAL CHAMPION

Mario Dupigny-Giroux, VTrans

VTRANS CONTACT(S)

Mario Dupigny-Giroux, Traffic Safety Engineer,
Bruce Nyquist, OHS Director

MORE INFORMATION

[Add link to the final report or other materials on VTrans website, or FHWA, etc.](#)

This fact sheet was prepared for the 2017 VTrans Research Symposium & STIC Annual Meeting held on **September 28, 2017** at National Life in Montpelier, VT. 8:00 am– 12:00 pm.

Fact sheets can be found for additional projects featured at the 2017 Symposium at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research/2017symposium>

Additional information about the **VTrans Research Program** can be found at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research>

Additional information about the **VTrans STIC Program** can be found at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/boards-councils/stic>

Introduction to the Proposal.

A Road Safety Audit Review is a formal examination of an existing road in which an independent, multi-discipline team reports on potential safety issues. According to the Federal Highway Administration, the purpose of a Road Safety Audit Review is to determine which elements of the road may present a safety concern, to what extent and under what circumstances, as well as to identify opportunities to mitigate the identified safety concerns.

Methodology or What was done?

In 2015 and 2016, the Office of Highway Safety conducted twenty-two Road Safety Audit Reviews at high crash location sites as part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

The primary audit team was composed of a maintenance district personal, of a traffic sign expert, of a former law enforcement officer and of a regional transportation planner. Depending on the safety issues, a bicyclist and pedestrian expert, a traffic design expert and or a roadway design expert were added to the primary audit team.

The review workflow for each site was as follows. The audit team met in a meeting room in the local community, usually the town hall, and looked at maps of the intersection or section of highway, reviewed crash data and other information presented by the local community. Then, the audit team walked the site to gather observations and obtained input from the officers who investigated the crashes. The audit team then returned to the meeting location for a debriefing and a discussion of possible solutions. The findings of the audit team were summarized in a report was produced by the road safety audit review coordinator.

Conclusion or What are the next steps?

The road safety audit review process permitted the identification and immediate implementation of low cost safety improvements in the form of signage improvements, sight distance improvements and traffic control changes. It also provided the basis for the design of larger projects.

The multi-disciplinary process facilitated the implementation of changes that were originally met with concerns. For example, the intersection of VT 78 and US 2 in Alburgh was converted from a two-way stop control intersection to a four-way stop controlled intersection. This was a major operational change and some people thought that the four-way stop would create a hazard by itself. Comments from the local community, however, have been very positive since the implementation of the strategy in fall 2016 (there has also been no reported crashes since the conversion).

What are potential impacts? What is the benefit to VTrans?

The road safety audit review process has proven a successful mechanism for the review of high crash locations. The same process could be integrated into the Project Definition Process as a means of qualifying the safety of a site or as a way of obtaining safety inputs at sites where the crash history is minimal.!

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Month Year – Month Year

PRINCIPAL CHAMPION

Author Name, Institution, PI

Author Name

VTRANS CONTACT(S)

Staff Name, Position

Staff Name, Position

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Introduction to the Proposal.

Include an introduction to proposal submitted. Include images as needed.

Methodology or What was done?

Include a brief summary of the activities completed during this study. Include images or graphs as needed.

Conclusion or What are the next steps?

Include a summary of the status of the incentive/innovation. If relevant, include recommendations for VTrans and future institutionalizing.

What are potential impacts? What is the benefit to VTrans?

Include information on the potential impacts on VTrans, for example policy updates or fiscal implications. This is potentially the most interesting section!