#### IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

#### **Institute for Transportation**

# Public Education and Outreach Strategies to Enhance Road Safety

Shashi Nambisan, Director, Institute for Transportation, Professor of Civil Engineering, Iowa State University shashi@iastate.edu

Robert Sperry, Program Manager Institute for Transportation, Iowa State University

**Erin Breen**, Director, Safe Community Partnership Transportation Research Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas



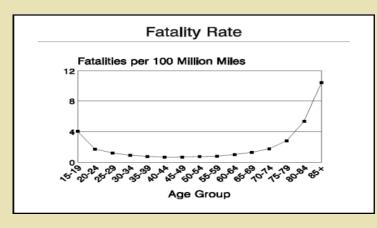
4<sup>th</sup> International Road Federation Regional Conference on "Accident Prevention: Road Safety Measures"

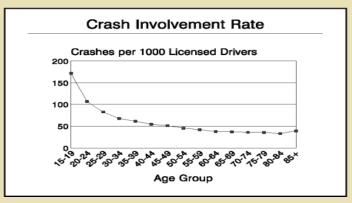
> New Delhi, India October 23-24 2009

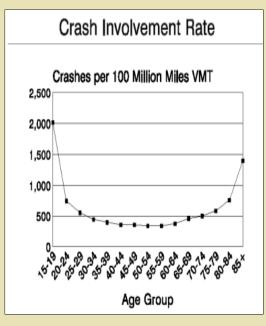


# **Safety Strategies**

- Identify risks
  - Quantitative: Data driven
  - Qualitative, anecdotal
- Minimize and mitigate risks
- Identify interested stakeholders
- Education
  - Road Users
  - Practitioners
- Outreach
  - Practitioners







# **Safety Education**

- Audiences
  - Non-motorized road users
  - Motorized road users
    - Drivers
    - Passengers
  - Special groups
    - Children
    - Teenagers
    - Elderly
    - Disabled
- Partnerships





## **Partnerships**

- Four Es for road safety
- Road user stakeholders
- Media
- Judiciary
- Schools and colleges
- Driving schools
- Public transit agencies / providers
- Retailers, grocery stores
- Alcoholic beverage distributors
- Not-for profit organizations
- Advocacy groups
- Large employers

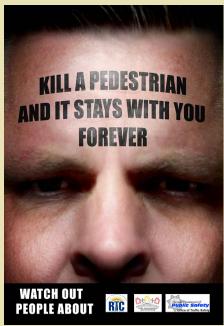




#### **More on Partners**

- Four Es for road safety
  - Engineering
  - Enforcement
  - Education
  - Emergency Medicine
- Media
  - Broadcast
  - Print
  - Online
  - Outdoor ad agencies







# **High Visibility Enforcement**

- "Joining forces" program
  - Overtime pay for officers
  - Inter-jurisdictional cooperation
- Types of enforcement
  - Driving under the influence (DUI)
  - Red-light violators
  - Pedestrian safety
- Media coverage: TV, Radio, newspaper
  - Before & after
- Outcomes
  - Behavioral changes
  - "Residual effects"
  - Interactions between Engineering & Enforcement
- Do what you say

keep nevada safe.wmv





# **Other Programs**

- Prevent Automobile Collisions Everyday
- You Drink, You Drive, You Lose
- Field Experiences
  - Teen Driving: Drivers' Edge
  - Walk your child to school
  - Walking school bus
  - Child safety seat checks
- Click It, or Ticket









# **Tools and Toys**

Public Service Announcements

DUI\_PSA\_rough.Copy.02.wmv

- Free ride home
- Competitions & prizes
- Posters @ bus stops
- Goodies
  - Bags
  - Bookmarks
  - Erasers
  - Reflectors





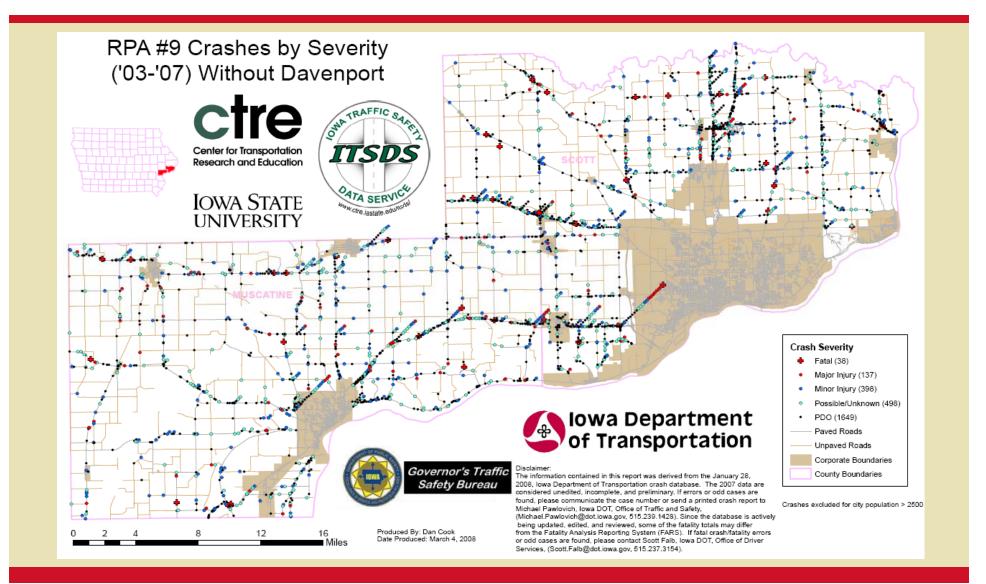
## **Iowa's Safety Outreach Program**

- Statewide multi-disciplinary safety support group
- Support for highway safety on local roads
- Excellent crash database
- Safety circuit rider ~ 20+ years old
- Safety liaison program started in March 2008
  - Outreach to county public works staff
  - Increase awareness of safety resources
  - Assist with pursuing resources

# Safety "tools"

- Crash Mapping and Analysis Tool
  - Excellent and user friendly
  - Free training on its use
- 8 years of crash data available for each jurisdiction
- Crash analysis provided for highest crash locations
- Free services
  - DOT staff / consultant review of major site specific problems
  - Customized crash maps (intersections, routes, or county wide)
  - Copies of safety related research projects for highway safety
- Safety seminars for engineers and technicians

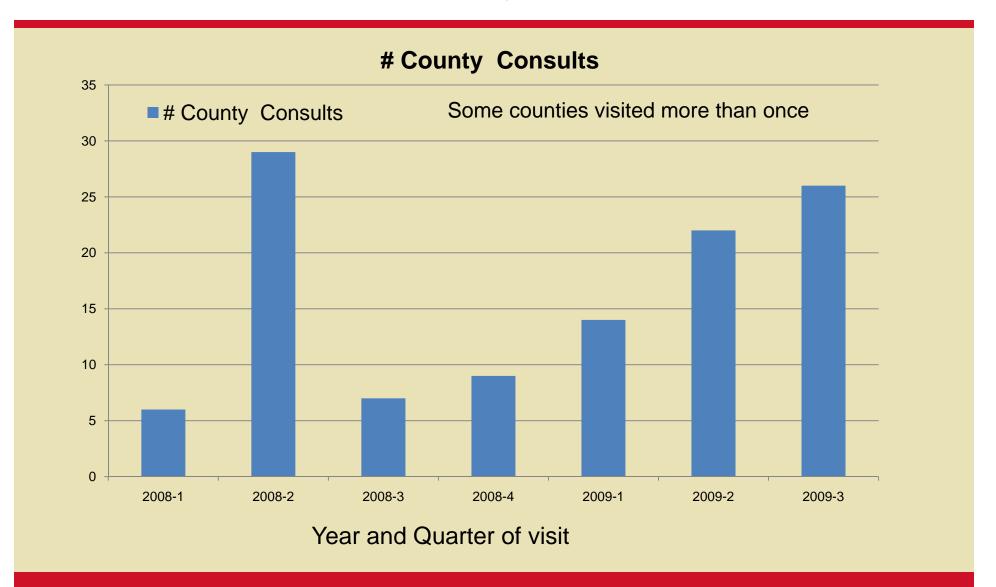
# **Crash Data Analysis**



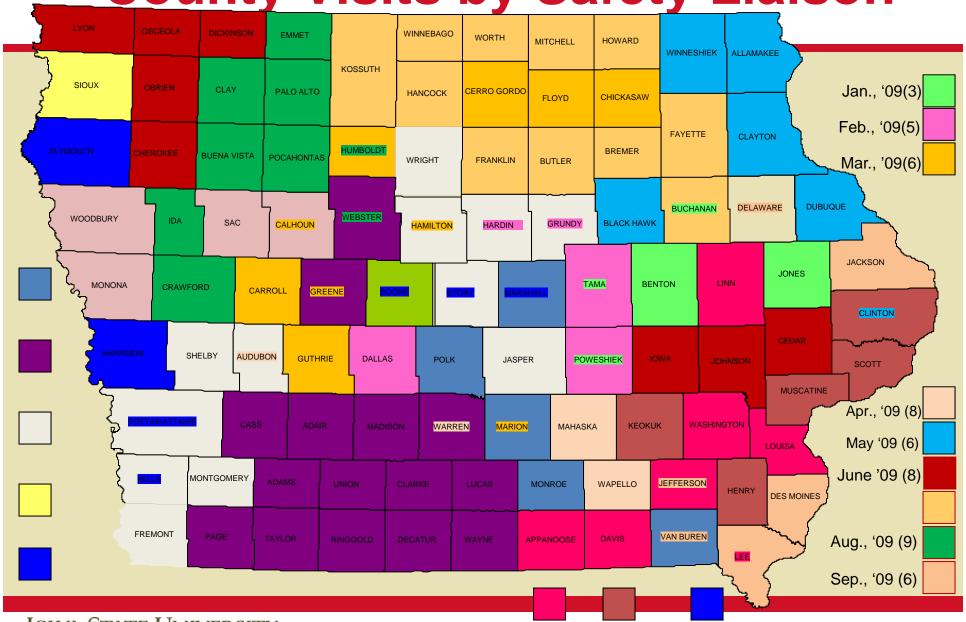
### **Program Effectiveness Measures**

- Revived interest in software (CMAT) training
- Requests for updated crash data (ITSDS)
- Calls to seek safety recommendations to incorporate on their recent projects
- Requests for jurisdictional crash maps (5 year)
- Applications for safety mitigation project funding

#### **Individual County Consultations**



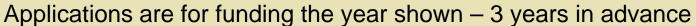
**County Visits by Safety Liaison** 

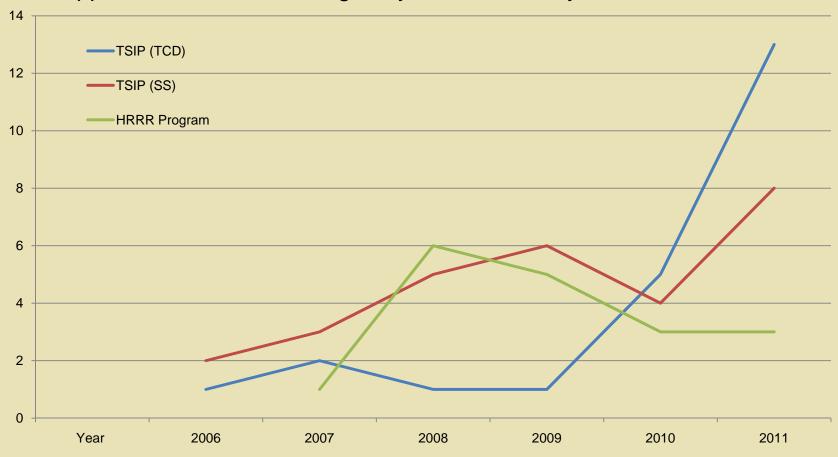


#### **Data Obtained from Locals**

- Information on use of traffic control devices (stops & yields) at rural intersections and railroads
- Knowledge and past participation in safety seminars
- Knowledge and past use of DOT provided assistance
- Current safety materials available for staff use
- Existing signing practices and computerized inventory

# **Project Grant Applications**





# Summary

- Team work / partnerships
  - > Supporters
  - Stakeholders
- Support structure
  - > Confidence
  - > Trust
  - Mutual Help
- Communicate
- Stay focused, don't give up
- Enjoy, have fun!



# **Key Factors**

- Institutional commitment
  - Administrative / management
  - Elected officials
- Stakeholder support / confidence
- Open communications
- Demonstrable outcomes
  - Benefits
  - Risks

