



TOOLBOX Resource Sheet

Transportation Safety Planning

November 7, 2025

Background

Transportation safety is a growing concern across the central Puget Sound region. PSRC's Regional Safety Action Plan found that deaths on the region's roadways have nearly doubled in the last decade, with people walking and biking representing nearly half of the increase in deaths. The regionwide trends underscore that severe outcomes are becoming more common despite an overall decline in total crashes per capita.

The US Department of Transportation has promoted the Safe System Approach as an effective way to address and mitigate the risks inherent in the surface transportation system. It works by building and reinforcing multiple layers of protection to prevent crashes and minimize the harm caused to those involved when crashes do occur. This comprehensive approach provides overarching guidance for roadway safety. This is a shift from a conventional safety approach because it focuses on human mistakes and vulnerability and designs a system with many redundancies to protect everyone. The Safe System Approach functions as a framework that integrates policymaking, system design, and user behavior to foster a robust safety culture. Emphasizing a multilayered strategy, the Safe System Approach recognizes that if one part of the system fails, other layers can act as safeguards to mitigate crashes.



*Principles of a Safe System Approach,
Regional Safety Action Plan (PSRC, 2025)*

In 2023, PSRC received two Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grants totaling \$7.7 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the development of the Regional Safety Action Plan and to provide technical assistance to nearly 20 communities in the region for creating local safety plans. PSRC's General Assembly adopted the Regional Safety Action Plan in May 2025, and safety work is underway in numerous jurisdictions across the central Puget Sound region.



Puget Sound Regional Council



TOOLBOX Resource Sheet

Transportation Safety Planning

November 7, 2025

Resources from Session Speakers

[Regional Safety Action Plan](#) | PSRC (May 2025)

PSRC's Regional Safety Action Plan provides a framework to improve traffic safety across the central Puget Sound region, working towards the ultimate goal of zero deaths and serious injuries. PSRC envisions that the RSAP will be complementary to city and county frameworks with the goal of consistent and effective safety planning and implementation throughout the region.

Local Safety Action Plans

Several local jurisdictions in the region have developed safety action plans aligned with the regional framework. These plans share the goal of eliminating traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by fostering a culture of safety, analyzing crash data, and partnering with community members to make streets safer for all users.



Traffic on Interstate 5 (PSRC, 2024)

- [Safer Streets Action Plan](#) | City of Redmond (April 2025)
- [Target Zero Action Plan](#) | City of Kent (June 2025)
- [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) | Pierce County (April 2025)

Additional Resources

- [Target Zero Performance Dashboard](#) | Washington Traffic Safety Commission
- [Achieving Vision Zero in Practice](#), PAS Memo 118 | American Planning Association
- [Transportation Safety Hub](#) | U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
- [Vision Zero Network Resource Library](#) | Vision Zero Network



Puget Sound Regional Council