

FAQ

2010 California Highway Safety Improvement 5 Percent Report

This document provides frequently asked questions (FAQs) and their answers for the 2010 California Highway Safety Improvement 5 Percent Report (Report).

1. What is the Report?

On August 10, 2005, the President signed into law the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU establishes a new core Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) structured and funded to reduce fatalities on all public roadways. A provision of the HSIP requires all states to submit an annual report to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) by August 31 of each year describing not less than 5% of their public roadway locations (both state & local) exhibiting the most severe safety needs [Section 148(c)(1)(D), Title 23, United States Code]. Subsequent to the passage of SAFETEA-LU, the FHWA issued guidance¹ to facilitate States' response to the 5 Percent Report. This report satisfies the requirements detailed in United States Code Title 23 Section 148(c)(1)(d) and complies with the FHWA guidance. This year, the Report was submitted to FHWA August 30, 2010.

2. Who was involved in putting this together?

In accordance with SAFETEA-LU, the California Department of Transportation sought input from a broad cross-section of traffic safety stakeholders, including:

- California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- California Highway Patrol (CHP)
- California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
- County Engineers Association of California (CEAC)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- League of California Cities
- University of California, Berkeley, Safe Transportation Research and Education Center

3. What criteria were used to generate the 5 Percent locations?

A data driven approach was used to develop the methodologies for identifying the Report locations on both the State Highway System (SHS) and local streets and roads. Different methodologies were used for these two roadway systems.

- **State Highway System Methodology**

For the purpose of this Report, Caltrans used the SHS location information from its Traffic Accident Surveillance and Analysis System (TASAS) Table C Report, which

¹ *Guidance: Highway Safety Improvement Program "5 Percent Report."* (2006, April 5). FHWA.

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generates a list of high-collision-concentration locations requiring traffic safety investigation. The TASAS Table C Report provides information for the 36-month period from January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2008. It considers collisions for 3-, 6-, 12-, 24-, and 36-month periods; traffic volumes; collision rates; average collision rates; and roadway types. The locations on the TASAS Table C Report were sorted into three lists: roadway segments (0.2-mile segments), intersections (each intersection location includes 250 feet on all approaches), and ramps (each ramp location includes entry, exit, and body of ramp). For each of these lists, the top 2.5 percent locations by fatal and injury collision rates and the top 2.5 percent locations by the number of fatal and injury collisions were identified. Combined, these figures comprise the 5 percent SHS locations for this Report. (No highway segments, intersections, or ramp locations were identified by both fatal and injury collision rates and the number of fatal and injury collisions.) This procedure resulted in identifying 102 locations (63 roadway segments, 23 intersections, and 16 ramps) on the SHS for inclusion in the Report.

- **Local Streets and Roads Methodology**

The California Highway Patrol's Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System was used to obtain collision information for identifying locations on local streets and roads for this Report. The local streets and roads were divided into 0.5-mile segments within each county, resulting in a total of 280,166 segments. Collision concentrations were determined for segments on which at least one fatal or severe injury collision occurred from 2006 through 2008, with the assumption that these areas could have potential safety needs. There were 17,535 segments identified and sorted to generate lists by county. Each county list was sorted from high to low by the number of fatal or severe injury collisions for each segment. Following that, the top 5 percent segments for each of these county lists were identified. Segments with at least three or more fatal or severe injury collisions were included in this Report as locations. 870 locations were identified.

4. What is a "location?"

- **State Highways:**

For the purpose of the Report, a location is a roadway segment (0.2-mile), an intersection, or a ramp (which includes the intersections between the ramp and local road) on the SHS that has been identified TASAS as having a significantly high collision concentration during the three-year period from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008.

- **Local Streets and Roads:**

For the purpose of the Report, a location is a street or roadway segment (0.5-mile) that has a minimum of 3 fatal plus severe injury collisions during the 3-year period from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008.

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5. How often will this report be prepared?

SAFETEA-LU requires the 5 Percent Report be prepared annually and submitted by August 31 to the Regional FHWA Office.

6. Will this report and locations be posted on the Internet?

In accordance with SAFETEA-LU, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) will facilitate public awareness by placing the approved 5% Report for California and all other States on the FHWA web site at: <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/fivepercent/>. It is anticipated that the 2010 5 Percent Report will be published on this website by December 2010 or earlier.

7. Have safety needs been identified at these locations?

- **State Highways:**

The Report includes locations on the State Highway System using Table C TASAS methodology. Caltrans has used the process of identifying and reviewing high collision concentrations using TASAS Table C for decades. The same process was used to identify locations in the Report. Table C is a continuous improvement process that is used on an ongoing basis to improve safety on the State Highway System. Because of the SAFETEA-LU requirement, these locations have been put in the 5% Report format. The state highway locations have been shared with CHP and Caltrans District Traffic Safety Engineers for review. All locations on the Report are being reviewed to identify safety improvements and enhancements.

- **Local Streets and Roads:**

The local streets and roadway locations have been shared with the California State Association of Counties and the League of California Cities. For questions regarding the methodology chosen for the local streets and roads portion of the report, please contact the California State Association of Counties at (916) 327-7500 or the League of California Cities at (916) 658-8200.

8. For more information or questions regarding locations identified in the 5 Percent Report, please contact the following agencies:

- For State Highway locations, contact the Caltrans Public Information Office at (916) 654-5782.
- For local street or road locations, contact the public works department in the jurisdiction where the location exists.