

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLANNING

WINSTON-SALEM URBAN AREA SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Because traffic crashes are a significant source of congestion, the City of Winston-Salem operates an ongoing Safety Improvement Program that identifies locations where crashes form patterns, treats the locations, evaluates the effectiveness of the treatment and then includes the evaluation results in a safety library. The creation of the safety library is a valuable planning tool. It not only helps in the selection of countermeasures for locations with demonstrated crash problems, but it also offer insights into possible future safety issues based on past experience. This library has been a rich source of safety data that the department has shared with others, including the state and federal governments.

The City's Safety Improvement Program has been operating for 21 years and the safety library has information from 694 completed before and after studies. At these 694 locations, an estimated 2,800 crashes have been avoided and over 3,000 injuries have been prevented and nearly \$8 million in property damage may have been saved. Each year the WSDOT identifies and treats crash patterns at 200+ locations. Each treatment is evaluated with regard to its effects on targeted crashes and total crashes. As a result of this sustained effort Winston-Salem and Forsyth County have safety records that are much better than many cities and counties in the state even though it has the 4th largest population in the state. In fact, according to the NC Division of Motor Vehicles, in 2003, Winston-Salem ranked 20th out of 68 cities with a population over 10,000 people. A copy of the report is included in the Appendix.

In addition to the City's Program, the NCDOT has developed the North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan. A copy of the Plan is in the Appendix. NCDOT also has an active Safety Improvement Program that identifies high crash locations, studies and treats them. Most of the locations treated under the NCDOT Program have more severe accident problems and are expensive to correct. The City and NCDOT often collaborate on projects to assume that more safety problem locations are treated and fewer crashes occur. A list of safety problem locations identified on the state road system and other hazardous locations in the MPO is located in the Appendix

An efficient transportation system moves people quickly with a minimum number of crashes. The Safety Improvement Programs in place in the Winston-Salem Urban Area illustrates the efforts to prevent traffic crashes and their consequences. Its simple, fewer crashes means less congestion.

SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR THE STREET AND HIGHWAY NETWORK

In response to both SAFETEA-LU requirements and efforts to improve incident response, the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is involved in a number of security efforts. These include:

- Serving on the Forsyth County Homeland Security Domestic Preparedness Task Force and the Domestic Preparedness and Readiness Region 5 Committee. WSDOT's Deputy Director is co-chair of the Public Works Committee of the task force.
- Helping to develop the transportation component of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for Forsyth County. The EOP is a classified document that outlines plans to be used in various emergency situations.

- Participation in Homeland Security Training classes across all levels of the department. WSDOT Field crews have taken Incident Command System (ICS) courses for first responders. Other staff have take ICS courses to prepare them for different roles in case of an incident or event.
- Several WSDOT staff have participated in regional training exercises relative to incident management and in the operation of Emergency Operations Centers. (EOC) The WSDOT Director, Deputy Director and other technical staff are on call should an EOC be activated.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) maintains a Coordinated Emergency Preparedness Plan in the event of a natural or man-made catastrophe. The authority of the implementing the plan resides with the WSTA General Manager. The plan outlines the procedures to be used by WSTA to make informed decisions that are appropriate for system operations regarding protection of passengers, employees and communities served by WSTA.

The specific purposes for the creation of the emergency plan are (1) to ensure citizens are well informed of the system's commitment to providing a secure environment in which to efficiently operate a mass transit system working while working with local public safety agencies during a crisis; (2) create a strategy for providing maximum protection of the system's customers, employees and key assets while insuring an adequate state of readiness; (3) develop and communicate a security protocol for staff and subcontractors to ensure awareness of their responsibilities in complying with the plan and; (4) establish an on-going communication between local public safety agencies and the WSTA regarding crime and security concerns.

The Coordinated Emergency Preparedness Plan provides WSTA with the capability to ensure (1) that security and emergency preparedness are addressed during all phases of system operation including training and hiring personnel; (2) state of readiness is constantly maintained between WSTA and local law enforcement agencies; and (3) promote analysis tools to evaluate and resolve vulnerabilities. WSTA participates in security exercises with local law enforcement agencies each year to monitor and analyze potential security concerns and develop enhancements in the emergency enhancement plan to resolve these issues.