

COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN



CHAPTER 1 *SAFETY IN GUTHRIE*

INTRODUCTION

The Guthrie Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) was developed using a safety framework to help the City of Guthrie achieve the goal of zero traffic-related fatalities in the city. The principles used throughout the planning process to ensure proper alignment with community goals included the Safe Systems Approach, the Six Es of Safety, and Vision Zero. These principles were used to lay the foundation for the plan and facilitate effective implementation. The CSAP will assist City Staff and local partners in making informed decisions when identifying countermeasures and policy revisions that will improve traffic safety in Guthrie.

Introduction

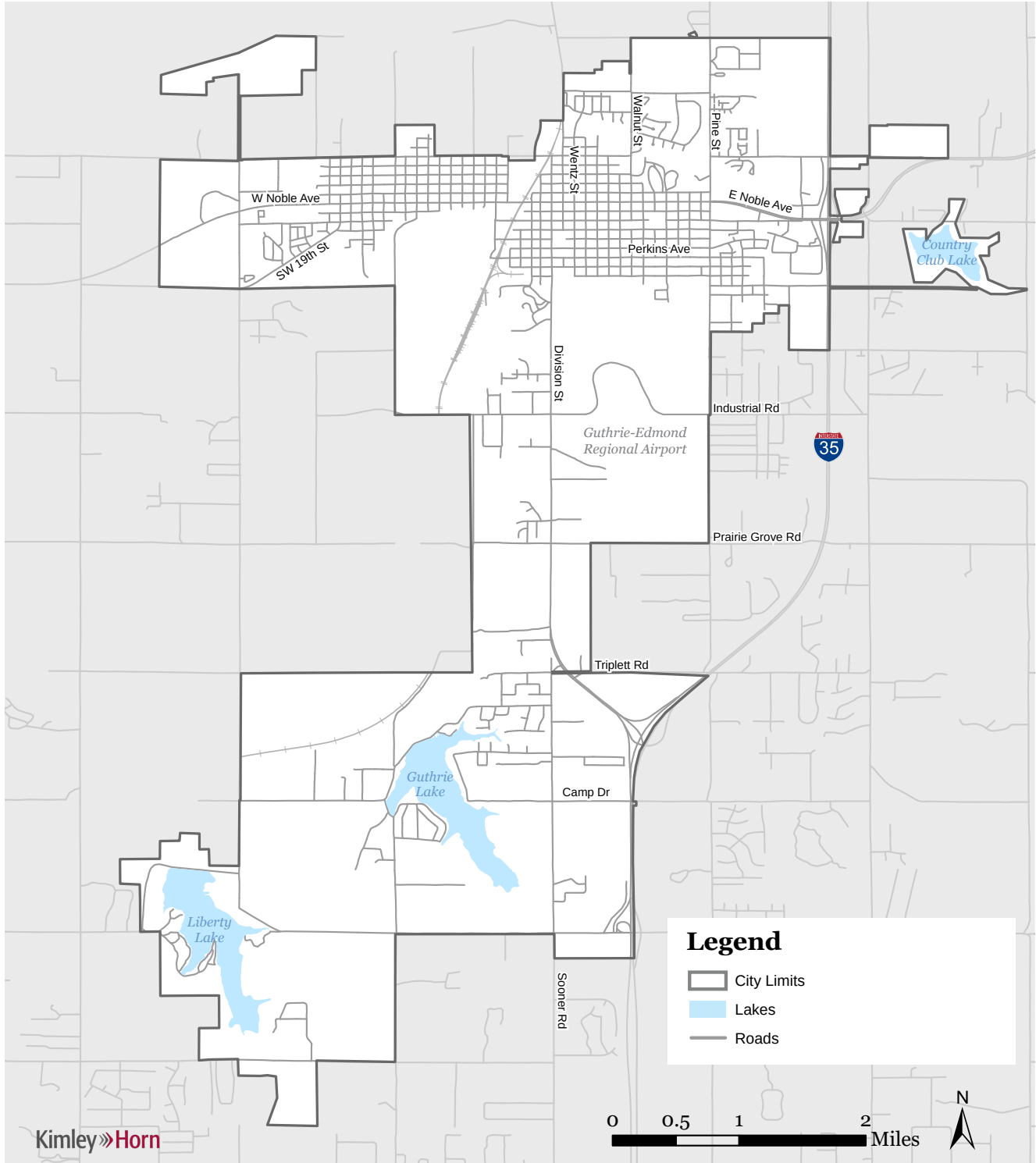
Safety Framework

Guiding Principles



CHAPTER 1

Figure 1. Guthrie City Limits



Safety Framework

Safe System Approach

The Safe System Approach was pioneered in the 1990's by Swedish road safety expert, Claes Tingvall. The Safe Systems Approach is a framework and method by which this CSAP can be implemented. The six key principles that can be used to implement the elements of the Safe Systems Approach are as follows:



Death or Serious Injury is Unacceptable

Focusing attention on preventing fatal and severe crashes over minor crashes so residents are better protected on the public roads.



Humans Make Mistakes

Human error is inevitable, inevitably leading to crashes, but a roadway system that accounts for and accommodates this fact can mitigate the effects (avoiding serious injury or death).



Humans are Vulnerable

Human tolerance to crashes is a recognized and measurable benchmark (kinetic energy transfer can be measured) and should be incorporated into design considerations.



Responsibility is Shared

No single party is responsible for crash prevention alone, but collectively all parties are responsible. This includes transportation designers and engineers, users, law enforcement, vehicle manufacturers, and publicly appointed decision-makers.



Safety is Proactive

Rather than responding to tragedy, measures should be taken beforehand to identify and mitigate potential risks.



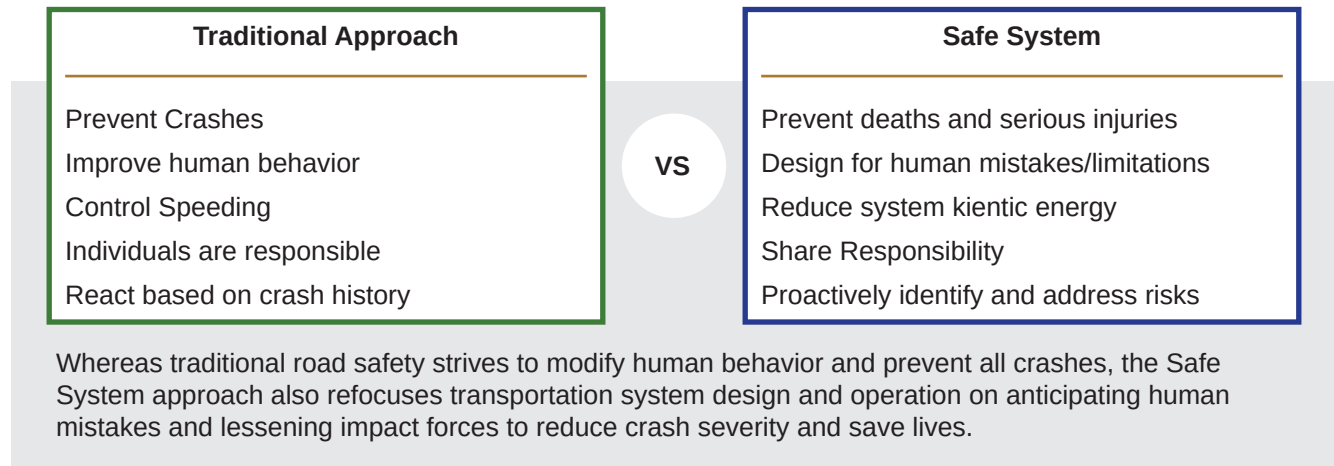
Redundancy is Crucial

Affecting change requires strengthening all Safe Systems elements. If one element fails, redundancy prevents system-wide failure, ensuring people are protected.

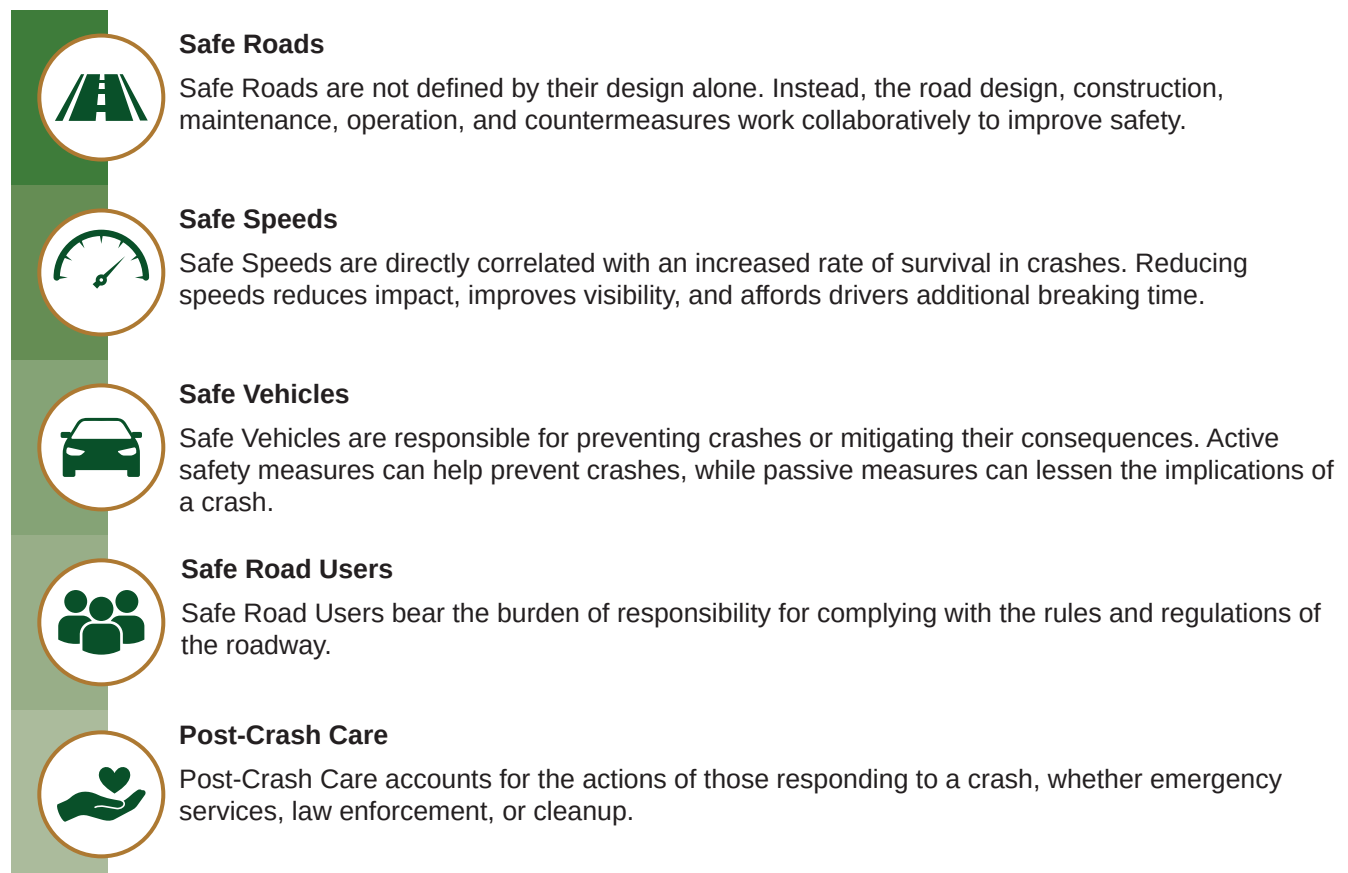


The Safe Systems Approach is a holistic, principle-based approach intended to eliminate serious and fatal injuries. This approach is different from other approaches, because it accounts for human error. Since human error is inevitable, this approach uses traffic safety planning to implement safeguards that will offset the consequences of these mistakes. Efforts to mitigate, or lessen, the physical impacts on the human body include roadway design, reducing speeds, physically separating automobiles from other road users, as well as technological advances in vehicles, such as lane departure assistance and autonomous emergency breaking.

Figure 2. Safe System Approach vs. Traditional Road Safety Practices



There are five complementary objectives outlined by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) that correspond to, and support implementation of the Safe System Approach detailed below:





Six E's of Safety

Similar to how the Safe System Approach works, the Six E's of Safety are components of an integrated and comprehensive framework. While every community varies in its composition and understanding of safety, the Six E's can be applied at all levels to enhance the user experience and improve safety.

Engineering



Engineering projects and interventions in support of Vision Zero may be implemented through the built environment to improve safety. The primary goal is to calm traffic and improve safety for all road users. Examples of proven engineering project enhancements include the implementation of safety countermeasures or traffic calming measures that reduce speeding.

Education



Education can improve safety by raising awareness of transportation choices, furthering or establishing the benefits of multimodal transportation, and demonstrating the proper use of the system.

Evaluation



Evaluation can support both proactive and responsive measures. Understanding the when, where, and why of crashes allows us to respond to historical trends and adjust to improve future safety. Similarly, careful evaluation can help head off potential issues before they reach greater severity.

Equity



Equity efforts must be made to acknowledge and rectify the imbalance and additional burden that disadvantaged populations carry. Vulnerable and disadvantaged populations are historically under-served and deserve access to the same information and infrastructure as everyone else.

Enforcement



Enforcement can ensure that system users follow traffic laws and regulations while also preventing profiling. Enforcement can also target and prioritize problem behaviors like speeding and other dangerous behaviors over minor infractions.

Encouraging



Encouraging the community to further their knowledge and understanding of safety principles can be fun and interactive. Events and activities can support and promote better behavior.



Vision Zero

Vision Zero is a traffic safety initiative, pioneered in Europe, that enacts change through prioritizing the principles of safe road design, enforcement, education, and community engagement. This multifaceted approach works by combining traffic safety efforts to reduce traffic fatalities and severe injuries, eventually leading to zero traffic related fatalities or severe injuries. The Vision Zero initiative is similar to the Safe Systems approach because it recognizes and accounts for human error. Vision Zero traffic safety planning designs road systems that mitigate the consequences of mistakes. Through the implementation of a holistic approach to crash related injury reduction communities can experience improvements in quality of life, safety, and mobility.

Vision Zero, unlike other methods, approaches traffic safety planning by creating a shift in how the community views traffic related fatalities and injuries. Vision Zero champions the view that there is a possibility of eliminating all traffic related fatalities and severe injuries. That these fatalities and severe injuries are not simply a byproduct of modern transportation networks. Vision Zero promotes the idea that there is a possibility of creating a safe and accessible transportation system for all; this community shift opens the opportunity to promote real change. Although the Vision Zero goal is ambitious, every step closer to the goal, every reduction in traffic related injury or fatality, has a tremendous positive impact on a community.

Figure 3. Safe Systems = Safe Mobility



Guiding Principles

To ensure the safety countermeasures and action items produced in this plan are tailored specifically to the safety needs of Guthrie, six Guiding Principles were developed. In order to contribute to the success of the Guthrie CSAP, the Guiding Principles were developed through stakeholder input and community priorities expressed throughout the planning process. These six Guiding Principles are the foundation for the action items in **Chapter 6**.



Bicycle & Pedestrians

Promote a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians by creating bike lanes, enhancing sidewalk infrastructure, and increasing visibility at crosswalks.



Downtown

Improve pedestrian and vehicular safety in downtown Guthrie through upgraded traffic signals, road markings, and dedicated pedestrian pathways.



Growth

Ensure new development projects incorporate comprehensive road safety plans, prioritizing the protection of all road users, especially in high-growth areas.



Schools

Enhance safety measures around school zones to protect students, including implementing better signage, crosswalks, and speed enforcement.



Speeding

Reduce incidents of speeding by increasing enforcement, deploying speed monitoring technologies, and implementing educational campaigns about the dangers of excessive speed.



Post Crash Care

Strengthen post-crash care responses by training emergency services, ensuring quick and efficient medical assistance, and maintaining clear protocols for crashes.



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