

Traffic safety sheets: a tool for transportation professionals

LOCAL, COUNTY, and state transportation professionals across Iowa will soon have access to clear, concise, and consistent answers to 25 common traffic and safety questions; transportation professionals may alter the text of these information sheets as appropriate in their jurisdiction and distribute the information to the public when the questions (or similar questions) arise.

Because the traffic safety information sheets provide concise, authoritative answers to many of the questions that transportation professionals are frequently asked by the general public, the sheets are expected to save transportation professionals time and resources, as well as satisfy the public's interest in clear and accurate information on traffic safety issues.

The questions

Through a survey of approximately 100 transportation professionals in Iowa, the questions most frequently asked by the public were identified. The topics include children's safety, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, speed limit decisions, roadway maintenance and lighting, and the use of signs and signals. A few examples of the questions addressed by these information sheets follow:

- Why isn't there a "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign everywhere a bus stops?
- How does the county make decisions about paving gravel roadways?
- Won't a traffic signal reduce accidents?

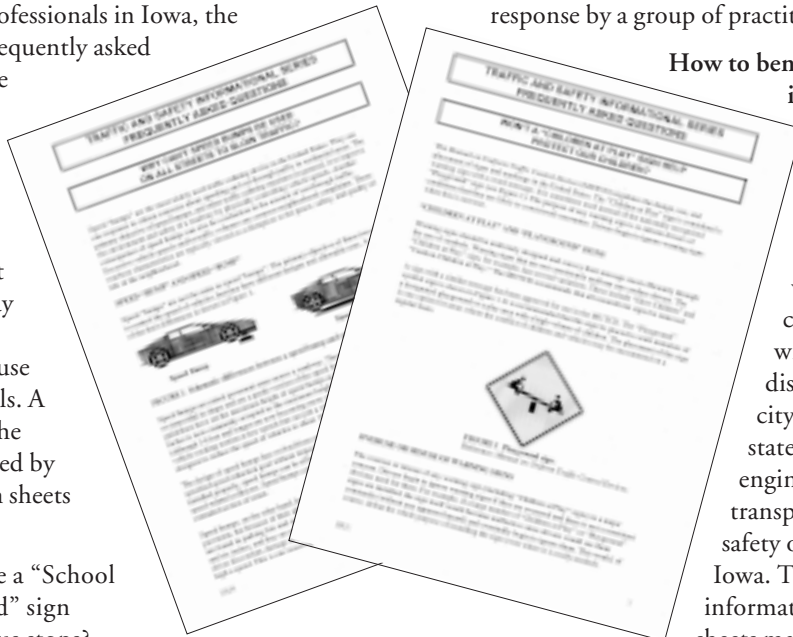
The answers

The goal of the informational series project was to provide clear, consistent, and correct responses to frequently asked traffic safety questions. Sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation, this was

carried out through a collaboration between the Center for Transportation Research and Education at Iowa State University and the University of Iowa. After identifying frequently asked questions, via the survey, researchers carefully drafted answers using authoritative sources such as the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials *Roadside Design Guide*.

Most of the answers run about two pages and include documentation of the information sources. The answers are also summarized in a series of one-page information sheets intended for a more general audience.

The questions and answers have been approved by a committee representing local, county, and state transportation professionals. The information sheets have also been tested with a generally positive response by a group of practitioners.



How to benefit from the information sheets

The traffic and safety informational series sheets will soon be complete, and will be distributed to city, county, and state traffic engineering and transportation safety offices across Iowa. The information in the sheets may be altered, distributed, and used as

seen fit by area officials and/or transportation professionals.

For more information or if you would like copies of the information sheets sent to you, contact Keith Knapp, manager of traffic engineering and traffic safety programs, CTRE, 515-294-8103, kknapp@iastate.edu.

LTAP Advisory Board

The people listed below help guide and direct the policies and activities of the Center for Transportation Research and Education's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). The board meets at least annually.

Contact any of the advisory committee members to comment, make suggestions, or ask questions about any aspect of LTAP.

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