

## Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) could fund *your* project

DO YOUR county roads need new signs? Would you like to experiment with a safety feature like rumble strips or a different kind of pavement marking? Not sure where to get the money for these projects?

Since 1987, the Iowa DOT's Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) has funded city, county, and Iowa DOT safety projects through one-half of one percent of the Road Use Tax Fund (about five million dollars).

Tim Simodynes, TSIP program administrator, says, "We'd really like to see more cities and counties use this fund. It's a great resource that, unfortunately, isn't always used to its full advantage."

### What projects are eligible?

Funding is available for projects that fall into one of the following categories:

- **Site improvement** (approximately \$3.9 million total/year)—construction or improvement of traffic safety and operations at a specific site with an accident history
- **Traffic control device purchase** (\$500,000 total/year)—purchase of materials for installation of new or replacement traffic control devices
- **Safety study** (\$500,000 total/year)—transportation safety research, studies, or public information initiatives

### Need ideas?

Here are a few projects TSIP has funded:

- making crosswalks more visible
- organizing local multidisciplinary traffic safety groups
- studying pavement marking effectiveness
- improving signing at high crash horizontal curves

### Project selection criteria

The Iowa Transportation Commission gives final funding approval for these projects, but the Iowa DOT prioritizes the projects for the commission, based on the following criteria:

- **Site improvements**—by benefit/cost ratio analysis and other criteria
- **Traffic control device purchases**—based on the safety benefits of eligible applications, the annual funding level, and other criteria
- **Safety studies**—based on the project's relation to safety, the annual funding level, and other criteria

### Apply for funding

Apply by August 15 for projects beginning summer 2005. Download an application at [www.dot.state.ia.us/tsip.htm](http://www.dot.state.ia.us/tsip.htm).

### For more information

Contact Tim Simodynes, 515-239-1349, [tim.simodynes@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:tim.simodynes@dot.state.ia.us). •

*Editor's note: The next several issues of Technology News will feature specific TSIP-funded projects.*

## Raising motorcycle safety awareness

FROM 1997 TO 2002, the annual number of motorcyclist fatalities in Iowa nearly doubled, from 26 to 48. Only 58 percent of motorcyclists in Iowa wore a helmet in 2002. Nearly 45 percent of Iowa riders killed in crashes had been drinking.

May is national Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and you *can* make a difference.

### Send a press release with motorcycle safety tips to your local newspaper

See these resources:

- Iowa Motorcycle Operator Manual: [www.dot.state.ia.us/mvd/ods/mcmanual.pdf](http://www.dot.state.ia.us/mvd/ods/mcmanual.pdf)
- Tips for working with the media: [www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/special\\_LTAP/prbook.pdf](http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/special_LTAP/prbook.pdf)

### Use media kits from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation to reach radio and newspaper audiences

See [www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org). Select "News" and then "Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month 2004: Making the Streets Safer for Motorcyclists."

### Promote motorcycle licensing and education

Courses and locations in Iowa are listed at [www.dot.state.ia.us/mvd/ods/mre.htm](http://www.dot.state.ia.us/mvd/ods/mre.htm).

### For more information

See the Iowa Safety Management System's Toolbox, [www.iowasms.org/pdfs/toolbox/chapter13.pdf](http://www.iowasms.org/pdfs/toolbox/chapter13.pdf). Also, find a new brochure and safety report at the Iowa Department of Public Safety's website, [www.dps.state.ia.us](http://www.dps.state.ia.us). •



Where's Patrick? ISU student Patrick Stein recently donned a helmet to demonstrate just how "invisible" motorcyclists can be to other drivers. (Can't find him? See page 12.)