



## **Background**

On August 10, 2005, the President signed into law the **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users** (SAFETEA-LU). This legislation established a new core Highway Safety Improvement Program to further reduce highway fatalities and injuries. As required under SAFETEA-LU, the California Department of Transportation will lead the effort to develop the statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

## **Purpose**

The purpose of developing a SHSP for California is to identify our key safety needs and guide investment decisions to achieve significant reductions in fatalities and injuries on all public roads in California. The SHSP provides a framework for all highway safety agencies in California to work together to align and leverage our collective resources.

A SHSP provides a comprehensive framework for data-driven decision-making, utilizing the four E's – engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency medical services. The SHSP establishes statewide goals, objectives, and key emphasis areas in consultation with federal, state, local, and private sector safety stakeholders. In addition, the SHSP identifies high-risk rural roads, and is required to list the top five percent of locations with the greatest safety needs.

## **Benefits of an SHSP**

The collaborative process of developing and implementing a State SHSP draws on the strengths and resources of all safety stakeholders. The benefits of a State SHSP include:

- Establishing common statewide goals and priorities.
- Strengthening existing partnerships.
- Building new safety coalitions.
- Sharing data, knowledge, and resources.
- Avoiding redundant activities and leveraging existing resources such as funds, people, and leadership attention, toward common objectives.
- Communicating the impact of investing additional resources for highway safety countermeasures.
- Incorporating engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency medical services strategies and countermeasures to have a greater impact on reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.