



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2024

Contact: Bonnie Parker, Public Engagement & Communications
984-542-2604 or bonnie.parker@campo-nc.us

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN AIMS TO REDUCE CASUALTIES, SERIOUS INJURIES ACROSS REGION

First time NCDOT, CAMPO, local jurisdictions, and transportation experts partner to identify common problems and opportunities to leverage state, federal resources to implement region-wide and area specific solutions.

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), is developing a regional transportation safety action plan - the “Blueprint for Safety”. This plan is based on a commitment to significantly reduce deaths and serious injury roadway crashes in the CAMPO region, including Chatham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, and Wake Counties.

“As our region grows and our transportation infrastructure tries to keep up, we need to keep safety in the forefront of decisions. Our elected leaders have made transportation safety a strategic priority for the MPO. That starts with understanding the root causes of fatal and serious injury crashes and then identifying systems-based solutions,” said Chris Lukasina, CAMPO’s Executive Director.

The Blueprint for Safety is a comprehensive approach for identifying both responsive and proactive transportation safety strategies and projects. The safety plan builds on three foundational principles:

Data-Driven Approach – The plan analyzes crash data and other information to identify safety problems and areas in the region where serious injury and fatal crashes have historically and are most likely to occur. Safety analysis highlights the communities and people who have been most adversely affected by roadway safety problems.

Stakeholder and Public Engagement– The process is partnering with a multidisciplinary team of professionals including engineering, planning, public health, emergency response, law enforcement, social services, transit, and schools. The team is meeting with local agencies and engaging the public to learn about roadway safety concerns from a diverse set of experiences.

Safe System Approach – The plan follows a [Safe System Approach](#) – one that considers the needs for Safe People, Safe Roads, Safe Speeds, Safe Vehicles and Post Crash Care. This integrated approach leverages decades of research on proven safety countermeasures to identify projects and strategies that will benefit safety for the community.

“Safety concerns increasingly demand attention at both the regional and local levels—in 2023, there were 580 crashes that led to someone either killed or seriously injured while traveling in the region. We will need the community’s help to identify the most important safety issues *and* to develop solutions that are customized for our region to save lives of our family, friends, neighbors, and community members.” - Mayor Vivian Jones of the Town of Wake Forest, and Chair of CAMPO’s Executive Board.

“Safety is an issue for all of us whether we are representing small towns or a big city in the region. From pedestrians crossing streets to speeding and aggressive driving on our roadways, whether they are two-lanes or eight-lanes, it feels like safety has been going in the wrong direction. If we can get the community to contribute to the conversation, use data, and combine that with best practices and lessons from other places, we can get things back on the path of saving lives, of having places that are comfortable for every road user—from the biggest of trucks to the smallest of strollers.” – Chairman Butch Lawter of the Johnston County Board of Commissioners, and Vice Chair of CAMPO’s Executive Board.

Why is improving transportation safety in the region important?

Safe behaviors and facilities such as streets and sidewalks allow children, families, employees, visitors to arrive at their destinations without incident. Planning for roadway safety considers the needs of those who drive, bike, walk or use transit.

Get Involved!

The Blueprint for Safety has a dedicated website where members of the community can access more information and complete the online survey (open through the end of August):

<https://publicinput.com/blueprintforsafety>

In addition to the survey, the Blueprint for Safety team will be at public events in your area. Look out for booths or stations promoting the Blueprint for Safety and other transportation initiatives at local festivals and community events between June and September 2024. Community input will contribute to shaping a shared vision and solutions to improve transportation safety.

About N.C. Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO): [CAMPO](#) is a regional transportation planning organization serving communities in Chatham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, and Wake Counties. CAMPO serves as the coordinating agency between local governments, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Federal Highway Administration.

###

Data is sourced from NCDOT’s data dashboard: [Statewide Crash Dashboard \(arcgis.com\)](#)