Every day, three people are killed or seriously injured on roads in the San Diego region: not including freeways. This is why we’re committed to making our streets safer by joining a global initiative called Vision Zero. This movement rejects the notion that serious traffic collisions are inevitable, but instead views them as unacceptable and preventable incidents. We are exploring and recommending many strategies to reduce road hazards, including:

- Promoting safe speeds through street design and traffic calming
- Designing roads to minimize collisions
- Educating drivers about safe driving practices
- Advocating for vehicle designs to minimize collisions and make them less severe
- Providing timely and effective medical care to those involved in collisions

We studied crashes in the region and developed a Safety Focus Network that shows where the most incidents occur within the smallest portions of roadways. This network represents 54% of fatal and serious injury crashes on only 6% of the roadway network (excluding freeways). Statistics like this come from our Regional Vision Zero Action Plan which was developed so that local government agencies would have data supporting their applications as they seek funding for safety improvement projects. This plan also provides a unified vision for our region’s active transportation network while offering technical resources.

Our Action Plan helps us create and recommend programs, policies, and projects that make our roads safer for all. For example, data in this plan can help local cities update things like speed limits in areas with a lot of pedestrian activity. Eye-opening statistics—such as how driving speed is directly correlated to how serious a crash can be, or how 78% of serious injury crashes happen on roads with speed limits of 35 MPH or higher—can help inform these decisions.
How can you keep your neighbors safe?

While local government does what it can to make our transportation system safer, everyone in our region has a responsibility to create safer streets by practicing safe behavior. 94% of collisions are caused by human error and leading contributors to crashes are unsafe speeds and improper turns. You can reduce how serious collisions are by doing things like slowing your roll, keeping your eyes on the road, andyielding to people walking and rolling. Remember, we are all pedestrians, even when we are walking to our cars.

What projects will be focused on first?

Statistics show that low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately affected by traffic-related injuries and fatalities. These areas represent 19% of our region, but they experience 40% of serious crashes. This is why we are prioritizing transportation improvements in communities that have been historically underserved.

What else has SANDAG been working on and what are we considering next?

- Partnered with a small city and tribe to develop their Comprehensive Safety Action Plans and created a plan template for other cities and tribes to use in future safety planning efforts.
- Collected community input online and in person to support the Regional Vision Zero Action Plan.
- Developed and launched a public Traffic Safety Dashboard. This interactive site includes crash data from the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System, National Transit Database, and Federal Rail Administration.
- Future activities include identify and build partnerships to support implementation of all safe systems approach elements: safe people, safe roads, safe speeds, safe vehicles and post-crash care.

Learn more

Visit SANDAG.org/visionzero for more information.