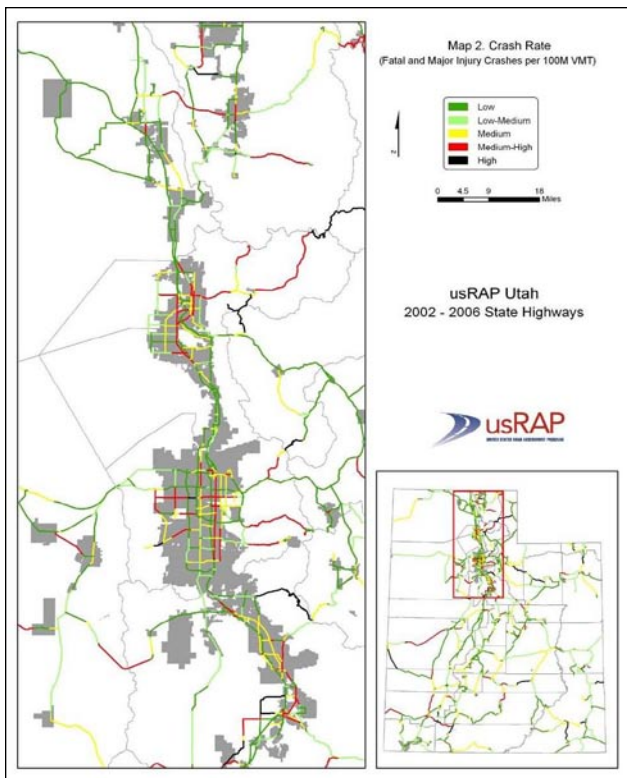




A program of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

usRAP Tools Assist State and Local Engineers

With the passage of the new Highway Bill that, among other things, will increase funding for highway safety and emphasize the value of state strategic highway safety plans on all public roads, there is now more than ever a need for new and innovative safety management tools, such as usRAP – the U.S. Road Assessment program.



In 2010, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety completed an 8-state pilot to explore the benefits of usRAP. Modeled on programs already used in Europe and Australia, and being used in over 70 countries, usRAP is designed to assess and benchmark the relative safety of roads using crash history data or roadway inventory data. State and county engineers, along with other key stakeholder groups, are represented on a technical advisory panel that has guided the program.

Presently, usRAP is moving to operationalize the program across the country, and is pursuing several efforts. In Michigan, Illinois and Kentucky, building upon a successful project in Kane County, IL, the usRAP team will be working with state DOT and several counties to assist in the development of county-level strategic highway safety plans.

These efforts will further demonstrate the utility of usRAP to county and local jurisdictions that often don't have adequate crash data necessary to complete more traditional analytical tools, such as FHWA's Safety Analyst. Using the usRAP Road Protection Score (RPS), usRAP can identify road segments with higher crash potential through analyses of road inventory data on the absence or presence of design features that are strongly correlated with the risk of serious crashes. More importantly, usRAP produces a "safety investment plan" that provides cost-effective options (road safety improvements) for engineers to consider in order to lower the risks identified.

UNITED STATES ROAD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM: USRAP

Meanwhile, having trained state safety engineers in Utah to perform usRAP analyses and produce color-coded risk maps based on historical crash data, the usRAP team plans to hold additional training sessions for state and county engineers, as well as consultants interested in integrating the usRAP tools into their ongoing efforts.

All of these efforts are designed to complement and supplement other highway safety management practices and help state and local jurisdictions respond to new emphases on performance metrics and transparency, with the move nationwide to enhance traffic safety culture and to pursue the Toward Zero Deaths Agenda.



To collaborate with usRAP or to participate in training, contact the AAA Foundation at usRAP@aaafoundation.org or 202-638-5944.

For more information about usRAP, please visit www.usrap.us.

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety
607 14th Street NW, Suite 201
Washington, DC 20005
www.aaafoundation.org

