

2023 Waco MPO Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Safety is inherent to good planning. This proposal considers comprehensive safety as the outcome of two sets of factors: the nature of the current system and unrealized risks. The first set is covered by the Safe System approach and is directly linked with Proven Safety Countermeasures (PSCs) which address the structural deficiencies of the current system related to the prioritization of efficiency over risk. The second responds to the challenges of mitigating future mobility issues related to land use regulations, auto-centric designs and policies, location decisions of schools and businesses, and the rethinking of streets and neighborhoods as public spaces which prioritize human scale and both vertical and horizontal equity over other concerns.

Consistent population and economic growth have put increasing pressures on existing transportation systems across the Waco MPO's planning area of McLennan County, TX. Waco MPO member governments have committed to support the creation of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) to guide decision-making related to adoption of safety policy, project development, and planning guidance related to growth. Notably, the City of Waco, which represents the majority of the county's population, prioritizes alternative modes of transportation as part of its Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan (CIP), while surrounding municipalities are seeking ways to account for equity and human scale in their planning decisions.

This proposal, when funded, will result in a CSAP developed by and for all socioeconomic, geographic, and demographic groups within the Waco MPO's planning area that will produce a safety-oriented decision-making framework for planning outcomes, a comprehensive list of safety projects prioritized according to safety impacts and equity considerations, and policy guidance specific to municipalities based on their development patterns. For the development of I-35 oriented action plan, we will coordinate and collaborate among Waco MPO, KTMPO, CAMPO, and AAMPO.