



ABOUT THIS PROJECT

PROJECT NAME: Roadside Safety Pooled Fund - Phase 3

PROJECT NUMBER: TPF-5(501)

PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAM: State Planning and Research

PROJECTED END DATE: January 2028

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RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Sharing costs of roadside safety research offers Iowa cost-effective solutions

When a crash involves a vehicle leaving the roadway, the resulting injuries are often significantly more serious—and more likely to be fatal—than other types of crashes. Roadside safety devices like guardrails, concrete barriers, and attenuators reduce the severity of these crashes by keeping vehicles on the road or shoulder.

States have common challenges when it comes to roadway departure crashes, and many of the same research goals. Sharing the costs of identifying, developing, and testing new and improved safety devices and strategies can make the investment more cost-effective. Toward this end, the Roadside Safety Pooled Fund was formed as a consortium of states dedicated to reducing highway fatalities through

infrastructure improvements. Since joining the pooled fund in 2019, Iowa DOT has contributed a fraction of the research costs while gaining all of the benefits.

“Like other states, Iowa DOT doesn’t have the resources to fund this much research on our own,” explained Daniel Harness, Iowa DOT’s liaison. “The pooled fund gives us leverage to implement a number of safety improvement strategies on the state’s roads for a much lower investment.”

As vehicles become larger and heavier and the volume of traffic on Iowa’s highways increases, the characteristics that make an effective roadside barrier evolves as well. To continue its work to find and evaluate life-saving strategies, the Roadside Safety Pooled Fund

recently initiated its third phase with more than 25 state and international members.

“Iowa DOT is committed to making our roads as safe as possible,” Daniel said. “The pooled fund gives us the tools we need to meet our goals.”

The third phase of the pooled fund is expected to conclude in January 2028.

To learn more about this project and subscribe to updates, visit [Idea #3584](#).

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