



ABOUT THIS PROJECT

PROJECT NAME: Aligning Iowa Driver Education Curriculum And Standards Toward A Zero Fatalities Vision

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RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Updating Iowa's driver education curriculum will provide consistency with real-world conditions

Like other states, Iowa requires new drivers to complete a state-approved driver education program before they're licensed to operate a vehicle on public roadways.

As technological advancements allow Iowa DOT to improve its road designs and infrastructure to increase safety for all road users, the curriculum and methods that are used to teach new drivers in the classroom and behind the wheel must similarly evolve to reflect the state's real-world driving environment.

This research project will identify gaps between Iowa's existing driver education curriculum requirements and national and regional best practices. Then, recommendations will help the state update Iowa's training manuals, standards, and

instructional resources to ensure public and private instructors are giving their students current, consistent and relevant information.

"Driver education is critical for establishing good driving habits from the get-go," explained Steven Stonehocker of Iowa DOT's Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services Bureau. "By updating Iowa's curriculum requirements to align with successful programs across the country, we're ensuring that new drivers will have the tools they need to drive safely on Iowa's roadways."

Once Iowa's educational resources and practical learning objectives are aligned, Iowa DOT will have a framework in place to more easily update its driver education program in the future.

"Our goal is to prepare new drivers to be safe on Iowa's roads," Stonehocker said. "As vehicles and roadway infrastructure change over time, our educational curriculum must evolve to ensure students can succeed."

The research is expected to conclude in May 2025.

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