

Every Day Counts

By Toni Dixon

Through its Every Day Counts initiative, the FHWA works with state transportation departments, local governments, tribes, private industry and other stakeholders to identify a new collection of innovations that merit accelerated deployment. The EDC program has made a significant positive impact in accelerating innovations and in building a culture of innovation within the transportation community.

Every Day Counts, known as EDC, is a state-based model that identifies and rapidly deploys proven, but underutilized innovations to shorten the project delivery process, enhance roadway safety, reduce traffic congestion, and integrate automation. Proven innovations promoted through EDC facilitate greater efficiency at the State and local levels, saving time, money and resources that can be used to deliver more projects.

The program runs in two-year cycles. The current program for 2019 to 2020 is known as EDC-5 Innovations. For each cycle, local and state stakeholders meet to determine which EDC technologies to advance in their state.

Among the topics most pertinent to our state is Reducing Rural Roadway Departures. The reduction of fatalities on rural roads remains a major challenge in the United States and especially in states such as Kansas. Roadway departures on the rural road network account for one-third of traffic fatalities. Systemic application of proven roadway departure countermeasures, such as rumble strips, friction treatments, and clear zones, helps keep vehicles in their travel lanes, reduces the potential for crashes, and reduces the severity of those crashes that do occur.

Substantial safety improvements on rural roads can be difficult to make due to the size of the rural road network, which accounts for approximately 70 percent of public road mileage. Additionally, these roads are often operated by local agencies with limited resources and technical expertise in safety analysis or planning. With so many miles of rural roads, it can be difficult to decide where to apply roadway departure countermeasures in order to reduce injuries and fatalities as much as possible with available resources.

Roadway departure countermeasures that can be applied systemically include:

- Signage and markings that delineate lane edges and alignment changes and help drivers navigate.
- Rumble strips that alert drowsy and distracted drivers drifting from their lane.
- Friction treatments at curves or other important locations to reduce loss of control.
- Shoulders, SafetyEdgeSM, and clear zones to provide opportunities for a safe recovery when drivers leave the roadway.
- Roadside hardware that can reduce the severity of roadway departure crashes.

To read more on Reducing Rural Roadway Departures, the benefits, and the state of the practice, [click here](#) or go to https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_5/roadway_departures.cfm.

To learn more about the FHWA's Every Day Counts initiative, go to [fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/)

EDC Initiatives Adopted by Kansas, To Date

- **EDC-1:** In-Lieu Fees, Scope of Preliminary Design, Safety Edge_{SM} (SE), Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA), Adaptive Signal Control Technology (ASCT), Prefabricated Bridge Elements and Systems (PBES), Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil- Integrated Bridge System (GSR-IBS)
- **EDC-2:** Locally Administered Federal-aid Projects, 3D Engineered Models for Construction, Accelerated Bridge Construction
- **EDC-3:** 3D Engineered Models: Schedule, Cost, and Post-Construction, Data-Driven Safety Analysis, Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil-Integrated Bridge System, Improving DOT and Railroad Coordination, LPA Stakeholder Partnering, Regional Models of Cooperation, Smarter Work Zones, Ultra-High Performance Concrete Connections for Prefabricated Bridge Elements
- **EDC-4:** Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures (ATSPM), Collaborative Hydraulics-Advancing to the Next Generation of Engineering (CHANGE), Data-Driven Safety Analysis (DDSA), e-Construction and Partnering, Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP), Using Data to Improve Traffic Incident Management, Road Weather Management – Weather-Savvy Roads (Pathfinder)
- **EDC-5:** CHANGE hydraulics, Advanced Geotechnical Exploration Methods, Reducing Rural Roadway Departures, and Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP).