

Road Safety Audits in Georgia

We have only done 3 Road Safety Audits in the State of Georgia.

We are here to learn.

3 Completely Different RSAs

- One RSA for an existing intersection
- One for a future project
- One for the intersections and roadways surrounding a future commercial development.

Georgia's first RSA

- Georgia's first RSA was done in October of 2000.
- It was an independent review of an intersection in Cuthbert, Georgia. The intersection was already signalized but had a significant crash history.
- The RSA was led by Gene Wilson of the University of Wyoming.
- The RSA Team included:
 - FHWA Transportation Specialist
 - Georgia State Patrol Officer
 - 2 engineers from the Alabama DOT
 - Members of NHTSA and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
 - Georgia Tech Professor
- The results of this RSA were that most of the recommendations were implemented within the first couple of years after the RSA was completed.

Georgia's second RSA

- Georgia's second RSA was done in June of 2004.
- This RSA was for a future (randomly chosen) GDOT project.
 - The project is a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile reconstruction project in Madison County to improve profile grades to meet current design and sight distance requirements.
- This RSA was conducted by GDOT engineers (along with a FHWA engineer).
- The results of this RSA were that many of the safety recommendations were addressed in the design of the project (e.g. removal of guardrail, etc).
- **The project is scheduled to let to contract this month.**

Georgia's third RSA

- The third RSA in Georgia was done in December of 2006.
- This RSA was requested by the City of Albany after they completed a RSA training seminar.
- This RSA was a review of several existing intersections and roadways, in advance of a large proposed commercial development.
- The RSA was led by Greg Junnor (hired consultant)
- Team members included:
 - Local Government planners & engineers
 - 2 GDOT engineers
 - FHWA engineer
 - Georgia State Patrol Officer
 - The chairman of the Albany Transportation Committee

- The results of the second RSA are not complete yet, but many improvements have been or are being made:
 - The pavement markings have been or soon will be refurbished.
 - Site Plan Issues – City Engineering and Planning and Development Services are working on a process that would require developers to receive GDOT approval for prior to the approval of site plans that are adjacent to state routes.
 - The upgrades to the service station/truck stop are complete.
 - Development has been notified of the recommendations of the audit team.
 - Intersection improvements completed
 - Because the City liked the RSA format so much, they will be using it as a basis for their annual evaluations and recommendations of top ten lists for crashes.

Road Safety Audit Training in Georgia

- Georgia DOT has hosted four RSA courses.
- Three of those were primarily for DOT employees;
 - one (June 2001) when it was in the development phase (pilot)
 - two (February 2003 and May 2005) when it became an NHI course.
- The final RSA course (July 2006) was sponsored by GDOT for a local Government, the City of Albany.

Challenges

- Typical challenges have been encountered with RSAs in Georgia.
 - Designers reluctant to change procedure.
- The most common questions that is asked:
 - How are improvements going to be funded?

Questions?

- Any questions or comments?