

ENGAGE YOUR LOCAL PARTNERS



THERE ARE PARTNERS AMONG US!

Supporting safe, resilient roadways is a common goal shared by many in your community, and there are likely partners and advocates for the critical tasks public works does, right outside your door. For instance, engaging with your local law enforcement partners and your citizens can provide ample opportunities to gather critical road user information and enhance roadway safety.

ENGAGE YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT!

State police members and local law enforcement from throughout New Hampshire are examples of local law enforcement partners. There are benefits in leveraging the eyes and ears of our law enforcement community with our public works objectives. The strongest argument to building a positive, collaborative relationship with your law enforcement team is to promote safer roads. Take time regularly to engage with law enforcement in your town. Build a strong partnership that supports open, timely dialogue regarding your community's roadway incidents.

Tips to help engage with local law enforcement partners:

- Asking to ride along with them and invite them to ride along with you.
- Asking about the “hot spots” in town - where are speed offenses most common, stop signs missed.
- Asking if there are certain corners or stretches of roadway that they're frequently called out to for a roadway departure or other type of crash.
- Asking if they would be interested if you provided education and outreach to better equip them to consider the roadway from a design perspective.
- Ask if there's a guardrail that seems to be hit routinely, a mailbox that has been knocked over several times, or perhaps there's been a crash in which a vehicle rolled over.
- Ask if there's an intersection in town where crashes occur on a regular basis.
- Find out if there are pedestrians coming and going from certain community buildings, retail stores, or other destinations across intersections at certain times.
- Are there parts of your community where users have special needs that make navigating roadways safely more challenging for them?
- Ask your law enforcement members to include GPS coordinates or other identifiable location specifics whenever possible in crash reports.

ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY!

Community members and elected officials are examples of community partners. Encourage community participation and input early and often, and whenever possible! Local road users are part of a road project not just during the planning and construction period, but well after the last piece of equipment leaves and the roadway is complete. If you're having trouble furthering a project, ask yourself who cares about a project you are considering, or who benefits from it. That person may be a good individual to engage with.

Tips to help engage with community partners:

- Public engagement can take many forms- input sessions, online polls, social media, community days, and more.
- Public input sessions are the start of a long-term vested relationship. Connect with the public ahead of decisions or town meetings, such as when you draft Levels of Service (LOS) Agreements, consider a new roadway project, or develop a traffic plan to address an upcoming project.

- Conduct public input opportunities like a listening session or walking tour. This allows you to gather direct user feedback about many factors, including traffic patterns, delays, and driver habits.
- Schedule any “onsite” public input sessions during evening hours that encompass prime commuting time, allowing for participants to discuss the traffic corridor similar to the average local user experience.
- Engage with business owners, residents, and commuters across all methods (bike, bus, foot, and personal car) about the intersections they avoid during rush hour, how they navigate traffic to get to their morning coffee spot, traffic speed, and many other topics.
- Feature relevant resources at public meetings, on community television, in your newsletters, reports, and presentations, and wherever possible.
- Consider inviting your elected officials on a ride-along during your next winter storm, or to empty trash barrels at public parks. Create opportunities for them to engage with your team and understand the work you do, and the challenges you address.

HIGHLIGHT PUBLIC WORKS AS EDUCATORS!

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) routinely releases new Tech Briefs, videos, and infographics on the “Every Day Counts” (EDC) initiatives. Many of the documents include associated CRFs (Crash Reduction Factors) to highlight the success these investments in safety can have. Since they are user-friendly to a broad audience, these documents can help you to inform public support for integrating these countermeasures into your road project budgets. Distributing information about the advances in roadway safety technology also achieves another purpose; creating awareness of public works as a profession.

To get started, check out:

- [Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian](#)
- [Reducing Rural Roadway Departures](#)
- <https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/highwaydesign/hwysafetyimprovements/index.htm> which includes details on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Road Safety Audit application

UNH T2 is pleased to provide free and customized Technical Assistance to local road agencies on a variety of road maintenance and transportation infrastructure-related topics, including bridge preservation and maintenance activities. Please reach out to t2.center@unh.edu for additional resources, support, or technical assistance, or visit <https://t2.unh.edu/>.

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