PART B—ROADWAY SAFETY MANAGEMENT PROCESS

CHAPTER 5—DIAGNOSIS

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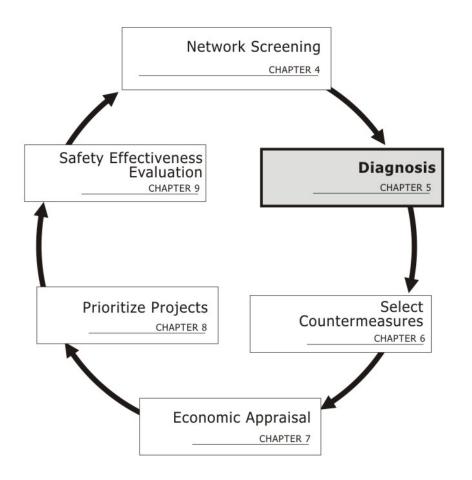
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CHAPTER 5 DIAGNOSIS

2 5.1. INTRODUCTION

3 Diagnosis is the second step in the roadway safety management process (*Part B*), 4 as shown in Exhibit 5-1. Chapter 4 described the network screening process from which several sites are identified as the most likely to benefit from safety 5 6 improvements. The activities included in the diagnosis step provide an 7 understanding of crash patterns, past studies, and physical characteristics before 8 potential countermeasures are selected. The intended outcome of a diagnosis is the 9 identification of the causes of the collisions and potential safety concerns or crash 10 patterns that can be evaluated further, as described in Chapter 6.

11 Exhibit 5–1: Roadway Safety Management Process Overview



The purpose of site/crash diagnosis is to develop an understanding of factors that may lead to crashes.

The assessment of a site begins with a review of crash data that may identify any patterns in the types of crashes and/or severity of crashes that have occurred.

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13 The diagnosis procedure presented in this chapter represents the best available 14 knowledge and is suitable for projects of various complexities. The procedure 15 outlined in this chapter involves the following three steps; some steps may not apply 16 to all projects:

- 17 Step 1: Safety Data Review
- Review crash types, severities, and environmental conditions to develop
 summary descriptive statistics for pattern identification and,

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Step 2: Assess Supporting Documentation

Review crash locations.

- Review past studies and plans covering the site vicinity to identify 0 known issues, opportunities, and constraints.
- Step 3: Assess Field Conditions
 - Visit the site to review and observe multi-modal transportation facilities and services in the area, particularly how users of different modes travel through the site.

5.2. STEP 1: SAFETY DATA REVIEW

A site diagnosis begins with a review of safety data that may identify patterns in crash type, crash severity, or roadway environmental conditions (e.g., pavement, weather, and/or lighting conditions). The review may identify patterns related to time of day, direction of travel prior to crashes, weather conditions, or driver behaviors. Compiling and reviewing three to five years of safety data is suggested to improve the reliability of the diagnosis. The safety data review considers:

- Descriptive statistics of crash conditions (e.g., counts of crashes by type, severity, and/or roadway or environmental conditions); and
- Crash locations (i.e., collision diagrams, condition diagrams, and crash mapping using GIS tools).

5.2.1. **Descriptive Crash Statistics**

Crash databases generally summarize crash data into three categories: information about the crash, the vehicle in the crash, and the people in the crash. In this step, crash data are reviewed and summarized to identify potential patterns. Descriptive crash statistics include summaries of:

- Crash Identifiers: date, day of week, time of day;
- Crash Type: defined by a police officer at the scene or, if self-reporting is used, according to the victims involved. Typical crash types are:
 - 0 Rear-end
 - Sideswipe 0
 - Angle 0
 - Turning 0
 - Head-on 0
 - Run-off the road 0
 - Fixed object 0
 - Animal 0
 - Out of control 0
 - Work zone 0
 - Crash Severity: typically summarized according to the KABCO scale for defining crash severity (described in Chapter 3);

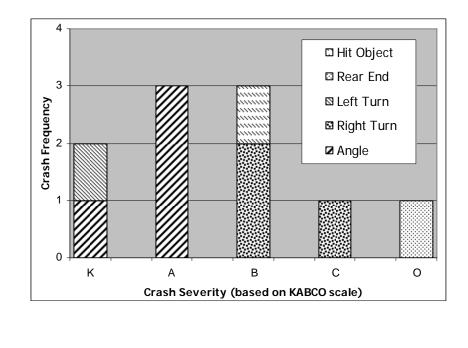
40 Crash data review may 41 reveal patterns in crashes 42 at a site.

54 Crash severity is often divided into categories 55 according to the KABCO scale, which is defined in Chapter 3, Section 3.2.2 57

59	•	Sec	quence of Events:
60		0	Direction of Travel;
61 62 63		0	Location of Parties Involved: northbound, southbound, eastbound, westbound; specific approach at a specific intersection or specific roadway milepost;
64	•	Co	ntributing Circumstances:
65 66		0	Parties Involved: vehicle only, pedestrian and vehicle, bicycle and vehicle;
67		0	Road Condition at the Time of the Crash: dry, wet, snow, ice;
68 69		0	Lighting Condition at the Time of the Crash: dawn, daylight, dusk, darkness without lights, darkness with lights;
70 71		0	Weather Conditions at the Time of the Crash: clear, cloudy, fog, rain, snow, ice; and
72		0	Impairments of Parties Involved: alcohol, drugs, fatigue.
73 74			data are compiled from police reports. An example of a police report from hown in Appendix A.
75 76			arts, pie charts, or tabular summaries are useful for displaying the

descriptive crash statistics. The purpose of the graphical summaries is to make 76 77 patterns visible. Exhibits 5-2 and 5-3 provide examples of graphical and tabular 78 summaries of crash data.

79 Exhibit 5-2: Example Graphical Summary



Descriptive crash statistics provide information about the crash, the vehicle, and people in the crash.

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Accident Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Date	1/3/92	2/5/92	8/11/92	7/21/93	1/9/93	2/1/93	9/4/94	12/5/08	4/7/94	2/9/94
Day of Week	SU	SA	SU	TU	WE	TH	SA	TH	МО	SU
Time of Day	2115	2010	1925	750	1310	950	1115	1500	1710	2220
Severity	A	A	0	В	к	К	В	С	A	В
Accident Type	Angle	Angle	Rear End	Right Turn	Angle	Left Turn	Right Turn	Right Turn	Angle	Hit Object
Road Condition	Wet	Dry	Dry	Dry	Wet	Dry	Dry	Dry	Wet	Wet
Light Condition	Dark	Dark	Dark	Dusk	Light	Light	Light	Light	Dusk	Dark
Direction	N	N	SW	W	S	W	N	S	N	N
Alcohol (BAC)	0.05	0.08	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.15

84 Exhibit 5–3: Example Tabular Summary

85 Adapted from Ogden⁽⁵⁾

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Specific Crash Types Exceeding Threshold Proportion

If crash patterns are not obvious from a review of the descriptive statistics, mathematical procedures can sometimes be used as a diagnostic tool to identify whether a particular crash type is overrepresented at the site. The Probability of Specific Crash Types Exceeding Threshold Proportion performance measure described in *Chapter 4* is one example of a mathematical procedure that can be used in this manner.

The Probability of Specific Crash Types Exceeding Threshold Proportion performance measure can be applied to identify whether one crash type has occurred in higher proportions at one site than the observed proportion of the same crash type at other sites. Those crash types that exceed a determined crash frequency threshold can be studied in further detail to identify possible countermeasures. Sites with similar characteristics are suggested to be analyzed together because crash patterns will naturally differ depending on the geometry, traffic control devices, adjacent land uses, and traffic volumes at a given site. *Chapter 4* provides a detailed outline of this performance measure and sample problems demonstrating its use.

102 **5.2.2**. Summarizing Crashes by Location

103 Crash location can be summarized using three tools: collision diagrams,
104 condition diagrams, and crash mapping. Each is a visual tool that may show a
105 pattern related to crash location that may not be identifiable in another format.

106 Collision Diagram

107A collision diagram is a two-dimensional plan view representation of the crashes108that have occurred at a site within a given time period. A collision diagram simplifies109the visualization of crash patterns. Crash clusters or particular patterns of crashes by110collision type (e.g., rear-end collisions on a particular intersection approach) may111become evident on the crash diagram that were otherwise overlooked.

Visual trends identified in a collision diagram may not reflect a quantitative or
statistically reliable assessment of site trends; however, they do provide an indication
of whether or not patterns exist. If multiple sites are under consideration, it can be
more efficient to develop the collision diagrams with software, if available.

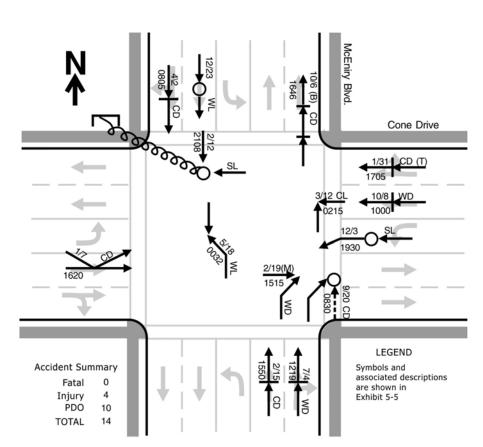
116 Exhibit 5-4 provides an example of a collision diagram. Crashes are represented 117 on a collision diagram by arrows that indicate the type of crash and the direction of

89Chapter 4 outlines the90Probability of Specific Crash91Types Exceeding Threshold92Proportion performance93measure which can also be94used as a crash diagnosis95tool.97

travel. Additional information associated with each crash is also provided next to each symbol. The additional information can be any of the above crash statistics, but often includes some combination (or all) of severity, date, time of day, pavement condition, and light condition. A legend indicates the meaning of the symbols, the site location, and occasionally other site summary information.

The collision diagram can be drawn by hand or developed using software. It does not need to be drawn to scale. It is beneficial to use a standard set of symbols for different crash types to simplify review and assessment. Example arrow symbols for different crash types are shown in Exhibit 5-5. These can be found in many safety textbooks and state transportation agency procedures.

128 Exhibit 5–4: Example of an Intersection Collision Diagram



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1 Adapted from ITE Manual of Transportation Engineering Studies.⁽⁴⁾

Exhibit 5–5: Example Collision Diagram Symbols

Vehicle Type		Accident Type	
\longrightarrow	Automobile		Rear End
	Truck	→ ←	Head On
\longrightarrow	Bus		Angle
\longrightarrow	Motorcycle		Sideswipe
	Other	\rightarrow	Same Direction
•••••	Pedestrian		Sideswipe
$ \rightarrow$	Uninvolved		Opposite Direction
Vehicle Moven	nent	REFERENCE	Out of Contro
	Left		Collision with Fixed Object
	Right	↑	Turning
	Straight	Road Surface	
$\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$	Backing	С	Dry Clear
Severity		W	Wet
\bigtriangleup	PDO	S	Snowy, Icy
0	Injury	0	Other
•	Fatal	Lighting	
t _a	Superimpose Severity and	D	Daylight
	Accident Type	N	Dark No Light
		L	Dark With Street Lights

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Adapted from ITE Manual of Transportation Engineering Studies.⁽⁴⁾

Condition Diagram

A condition diagram is a plan view drawing of as many site characteristics as possible.⁽²⁾ Characteristics that can be included in the condition diagram are:

Roadway

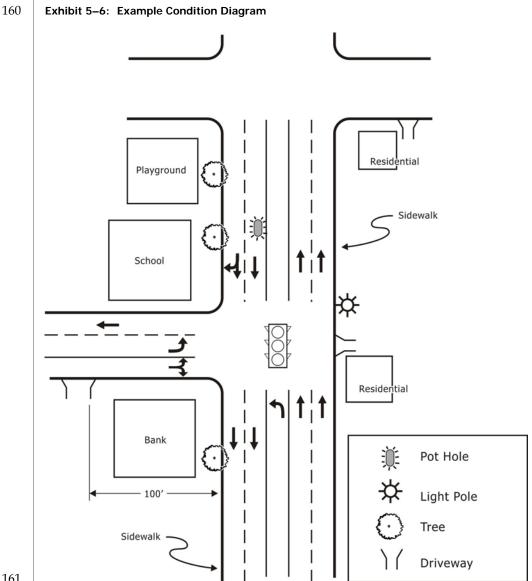
- Lane configurations and traffic control;
- Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities in the vicinity of the site;
- Presence of roadway medians;
- Landscaping;
- Shoulder or type of curb and gutter; and,

A condition diagram is a plan view drawing of site characteristics including: roadway geometry, adjacent land use, & pavement conditions.

145		• Locations of utilities (e.g., fire hydrants, light poles, telephone poles).
146	•	Land Uses
147 148		• Type of adjacent land uses (e.g., school, retail, commercial, residential) and;
149		• Driveway access points serving these land uses.
150	•	Pavement Conditions
151		 Locations of potholes, ponding, or ruts.

The purpose of the condition diagram is to develop a visual site overview that 152 can be related to the collision diagram's findings. Conceptually, the two diagrams 153 154 could be overlaid to further relate crashes to the roadway conditions. Exhibit 5-6 provides an example of a condition diagram; the content displayed will change for 155 156 each site depending on the site characteristics that may contribute to crash 157 occurrence. The condition diagram is developed by hand during the field 158 investigation and can be transcribed into an electronic diagram if needed. The 159 diagram does not have to be drawn to scale.

A condition diagram can be related to a collision diagram to further understand potential patterns.





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162 Crash Mapping

163 Jurisdictions that have electronic databases of their roadway network and 164 geocoded crash data can integrate the two into a Geographic Information Systems 165 (GIS) database.⁽³⁾ GIS allows data to be displayed and analyzed based on spatial 166 characteristics. Evaluating crash locations and trends with GIS is called crash 167 mapping. The following describes some of the crash analysis techniques and 168 advantages of using GIS to analyze a crash location (not an exhaustive list):

Scanned police reports and video/photo logs for each crash location can be related to the GIS database to make the original data and background information readily available to the analyst.

172 Data analyses can integrate crash data (e.g., location, time of day, day of 173 week, age of participants, sobriety) with other database information, such as 174 the presence of schools, posted speed limit signs, rail crossings, etc.

Part B / Roadway Safety Management Process Chapter 5-Diagnosis

- The crash database can be queried to report crash clusters; that is, crashes within a specific distance of each other, or within a specific distance of a particular land use. This can lead to regional crash assessments and analyses of the relationship of crashes to land uses.
- Crash frequency or crash density can be evaluated along a corridor to provide indications of patterns in an area.
- 181 Data entry quality control checks can be conducted easily and, if necessary, corrections can be made directly in the database.

183 The accuracy of crash location data is the key to achieving the full benefits of 184 GIS crash analysis. The crash locating system that police use is most valuable when it 185 is consistent with, or readily converted to, the locational system used for the GIS 186 database. When that occurs, global positioning system (GPS) tools are used to 187 identify crash locations. However, database procedures related to crash location can 188 influence analysis results. For example, if all crashes within 200 feet of an intersection 189 are entered into the database at the intersection centerline, the crash map may 190 misrepresent actual crash locations and possibly lead to misinterpretation of site 191 issues. These issues can be mitigated by advanced planning of the data set and 192 familiarity with the process for coding crashes.

1935.3.STEP 2: ASSESS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Assessing supporting documentation is the second step in the overall diagnosis of a site. The goal of this assessment is to obtain and review documented information or personal testimony of local transportation professionals that provides additional perspective to the crash data review described in Section 5.2. The supporting documentation may identify new safety concerns or verify the concerns identified from the crash data review.

200 Reviewing past site documentation provides historical context about the study 201 site. Observed patterns in the crash data may be explained by understanding 202 operational and geometric changes documented in studies conducted in the vicinity 203 of a study site. For example, a review of crash data may reveal that the frequency of 204 left-turning crashes at a signalized intersection increased significantly three years ago 205 and have remained at that level. Associated project area documentation may show a 206 corridor roadway widening project had been completed at that time, which may have 207 led to the increased observed crash frequency due to increased travel speeds and/or 208 the increase in the number of lanes opposing a permitted left turn.

209 Identifying the site characteristics through supporting documentation also helps 210 define the roadway environment type (e.g., high-speed suburban commercial 211 environment, or low-speed urban residential environment). This provides the context 212 in which an assessment can be made as to whether certain characteristics have 213 potentially contributed to the observed crash pattern. For example, in a high-speed 214 rural environment a short horizontal curve with a small radius may increase the risk 215 of a crash, whereas in a low-speed residential environment the same horizontal curve 216 length and radius may be appropriate to help facilitate slower speeds.

- The following types of information may be useful as supporting documentation to a site safety assessment:⁽⁶⁾
- 219 Current traffic volumes for all travel modes;
- 220 As-built construction plans;

Supporting documentation such as as-built plans, past studies, and past traffic counts further inform of conditions at a site.

	221	 Relevant design criteria and pertinent guidelines;
	222 223	 Inventory of field conditions (e.g., traffic signs, traffic control devices, number of travel lanes, posted speed limits, etc.);
	224	 Relevant photo or video logs;
	225	 Maintenance logs;
	226 227	 Recent traffic operations and/or transportation studies conducted in the vicinity of the site;
	228	 Land use mapping and traffic access control characteristics;
	229	 Historic patterns of adverse weather;
	230	 Known land use plans for the area;
	231	 Records of public comments on transportation issues;
	232	 Roadway improvement plans in the site vicinity; and,
	233	Anecdotal information about travel through the site.
	234 235	A thorough list of questions and data to consider when reviewing past site documentation is provided in Appendix B.
	236	5.4. STEP 3: ASSESS FIELD CONDITIONS
	237 238 239 240 241 242 243	The diagnosis can be supported by a field investigation. Field observations can serve to validate safety concerns identified by a review of crash data or supporting documentation. During a field investigation, firsthand site information is gathered to help understand motorized and non-motorized travel to and through the site. Careful preparation, including participant selection and coordination, helps get the most value from field time. Appendix C includes guidance on how to prepare for assessing field conditions.
	244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251	A comprehensive field assessment involves travel through the site from all possible directions and modes. If there are bike lanes, a site assessment could include traveling through the site by bicycle. If U-turns are legal, the assessment could include making U-turns through the signalized intersections. The goal is to notice, characterize, and record the "typical" experience of a person traveling to and through the site. Visiting the site during different times of the day and under different lighting or weather conditions will provide additional insights into the site's characteristics.
	252 253	The following list provides several examples (not an exhaustive list) of useful considerations during a site review: ⁽¹⁾
	254	 Roadway and roadside characteristics:
ence	255	 Signing and striping
orovide	256	o Posted speeds
n about	257	 Overhead lighting
	258	 Pavement condition
	259	o Landscape condition

254 A field visit to experience site conditions may provide 256 additional information about 257 crashes. 258

260	 Sight distances
261	o Shoulder widths
262	 Roadside furniture
263 264	 Geometric design (e.g., horizontal alignment, vertical alignment, cross- section)
265	Traffic conditions:
266	• Types of facility users
267	 Travel condition (e.g., free-flow, congested)
268	 Adequate queue storage
269	 Excessive vehicular speeds
270	• Traffic control
271	 Adequate traffic signal clearance time
272	Traveler behavior:
273 274	 Drivers – aggressive driving, speeding, ignoring traffic control, making maneuvers through insufficient gaps in traffic;
275 276 277	 Bicyclists—riding on the sidewalk instead of the bike lane, riding excessively close to the curb or travel lane within the bicycle lane; ignoring traffic control, not wearing helmets; and,
278 279 280	 Pedestrians – ignoring traffic control to cross intersections or roadways, insufficient pedestrian crossing space and signal time, roadway design that encourages pedestrians to improperly use facilities.
281 282 283	 Roadway consistency: Roadway cross-section is consistent with the desired functionality for all modes, and visual cues are consistent with the desired behavior;
284 285 286	Land uses: Adjacent land use type is consistent with road travel conditions, degree of driveway access to and from adjacent land uses, and types of users associated with the land use (e.g., school-age children, elderly, commuters);
287 288 289	 Weather conditions: Although it will most likely not be possible to see the site in all weather conditions, consideration of adverse weather conditions and how they might affect the roadway conditions may prove valuable; and,
290	Evidence of problems, for example:
291	 Broken glass
292	o Skid marks
293	 Damaged signs
294	o Damaged guard rail
295	 Damaged road furniture
296	 Damaged landscape treatments
297 298 299	Prompt lists are useful at this stage to help maintain a comprehensive assessment. These tools serve as a reminder of various considerations and assessments that can be made in the field. Prompt lists can be acquired from a variety

of sources, including road safety audit guidebooks and safety textbooks. Alternately,
jurisdictions can develop their own. Example prompt lists for different types of
roadway environments are provided in Appendix D.

303 An assessment of field conditions is different from a road safety audit (RSA). A 304 RSA is a formal examination that could be conducted on an existing or future facility 305 and is completed by an independent and interdisciplinary audit team of experts. 306 RSAs include an assessment of field conditions, as described in this section, but also 307 include a detailed analysis of human factors and other additional considerations. The 308 sites selected for a RSA are also selected differently than those selected through the 309 network screening process described in Chapter 4. A RSA will often be conducted as a 310 proactive means of reducing crashes and the site may or may not exhibit a known 311 crash pattern or safety concern in order to warrant study.

312 **5.5. IDENTIFY CONCERNS**

313 Once the field assessment, crash data review, and supporting documentation 314 assessment is completed the information can be compiled to identify any specific 315 crash patterns that could be addressed by a countermeasure. Comparing 316 observations from the field assessment, crash data review, and supporting 317 documentation assessment may lead observations that would not have otherwise 318 been identified. For example, if the crash data review showed a higher average crash 319 frequency at one particular approach to an intersection, and the field investigation 320 showed potential sight-distance constraints at this location, these two pieces of 321 information may be related and warrant further consideration. Alternatively, the 322 background site document assessment may reveal that the intersection's signal 323 timing had recently been modified in response to capacity concerns. In the latter case, 324 conditions may be monitored at the site to confirm that the change in signal timing is 325 achieving the desired effect.

In some cases the data review, documentation review, and field investigation may not identify any potential patterns or concerns at a site. If the site was selected for evaluation through the network screening process, it may be that there are multiple minor factors contributing to crashes. Most countermeasures are effective in addressing a single contributing factor, and therefore it may require multiple countermeasures to realize a reduction in the average crash frequency.

5.6. CONCLUSIONS

This chapter described steps for diagnosing crash conditions at a site. The expected outcome of a diagnosis is an understanding of site conditions and the identification of any crash patterns or concerns, and recognizing the site conditions may relate to the patterns.

This chapter outlined three steps for diagnosing sites:

- Step 1: Crash Data Review The review considers descriptive statistics of crash conditions and locations that may help identify data trends. Collision diagrams, condition diagrams, and crash mapping are illustrative tools that can help summarize crash data in such a way that patterns become evident.
- Step 2: Assess Supporting Documentation The assessment provides information about site conditions, including: infrastructure improvements, traffic operations, geometry, traffic control, travel modes in use, and relevant public comments. Appendix B provides a list of questions to consider when assessing supporting documentation.

A site diagnosis is completed with a 338 crash data review, 339 review of supporting 340 documentation, and a 341 field visit. 342

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347 Step 3: Field Conditions Assessment - First-hand site information is gathered and compared to the findings of Steps 1 and 2. The on-site information 348 gathered includes roadway and roadside characteristics, live traffic 349 conditions, traveler behavior, land uses, roadway consistency, weather 350 conditions, and any unusual characteristics not identified previously. The 351 effectiveness of a field investigation is increased when conducted from a 352 multi-modal, multi-disciplinary perspective. Appendices C and D provide 353 354 additional guidance for preparing and conducting a field conditions assessment. 355

At this point in the roadway safety management process, sites have been screened from a larger network and a comprehensive diagnosis has been completed. Site characteristics are known and specific crash patterns have been identified. *Chapter 6* provides guidance on identifying the factors contributing to the safety concerns or crash patterns and identifying countermeasures to address them.

361 **5.7. SAMPLE PROBLEMS**

362 The Situation

Using the network screening methods outlined in *Chapter 4*, the roadway agency
has screened the transportation network and identified five intersections and five
roadway segments with the highest potential for safety improvement. The locations
are shown in Exhibit 5-7.

Intersection #	Traffic	Number of	Major Minor		Urban/	Crash Totals			
	Control	Approaches	AADT	AADT	Rural	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
2	Two-way stop	4	22,100	1,650	U	9	11	15	
7	Two-way stop	4	40,500	1,200	U	11	9	14	
9	Signal	4	47,000	8,500	U	15	12	10	
11	Signal	4	42,000	1,950	U	12	15	11	
12	Signal	4	46,000 18,500		U	10	14	8	
Segment #	Cross-section	Length	AADT		Undivided/	Crash Totals			
	(lanes)	(miles)			Divided	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
1	(lanes)	(miles) 0.60	9,0	000	Divided U	Year 1 16	Year 2 15	Year 3 14	
1 2				000					
	2	0.60	15,		U	16	15	14	
2	2 2	0.60	15, 22,	000	U	16 12	15 14	14 10	

367 Exhibit 5-7: Sites Selected For Further Review

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Intersections 2 and 9 and Segments 1 and 5 will be studied in detail in this
example. In a true application, all five intersections and segments would be studied
in detail.

372 *The Question*

What are the crash summary statistics, collision diagrams, and condition diagrams for Intersections 2 and 9 and Segments 1 and 5?

375 The Facts

- 376 Intersections
 - Three years of intersection crash data are shown in Exhibit 5-8.
 - All study intersections have four approaches and are located in urban environments.
 - The minor road is stop controlled.

381 Roadway Segments

- Three years of roadway segment crash data are shown in Exhibits 5-7.
- The roadway cross-section and length is shown in Exhibit 5-7.

384 Assumptions

- The roadway agency has generated crash summary characteristics, collision diagrams, and condition diagrams.
- The roadway agency has qualified staff available to conduct a field assessment of each site.

389 Exhibit 5-8: Intersection Crash Data Summary

		Crash Severity			Crash Type							
Intersection #	Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO	Rear End	Side- swipe/ Over taking	Right Angle	Ped	Bike	Head- On	Fixed Object	Other
2	35	2	25	7	4	2	21	0	2	5	0	1
7	34	1	17	16	19	7	5	0	0	0	3	0
9	37	0	22	15	14	4	17	2	0	0	0	0
11	38	1	19	18	6	5	23	0	0	4	0	0
12	32	0	15	17	12	2	14	1	0	2	0	1

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391 Exhibit 5-9: Roadway Segment Crash Data Summary

		Cra	ish Severit	у	Crash Type								
Segment #	Total	Fatal	Injury	PDO	Rear End	Angle	Head- On	Side- swipe	Ped	Fixed Object	Roll- Over	Other	
1	47	3	15	29	0	0	7	6	0	15	19	0	
2	36	0	5	31	0	1	3	3	3	14	10	2	
5	42	0	5	37	0	0	22	10	0	5	5	0	
6	36	0	5	31	4	0	11	10	0	5	4	2	
7	36	0	6	30	2	0	13	11	0	4	3	3	

392 *Solution*

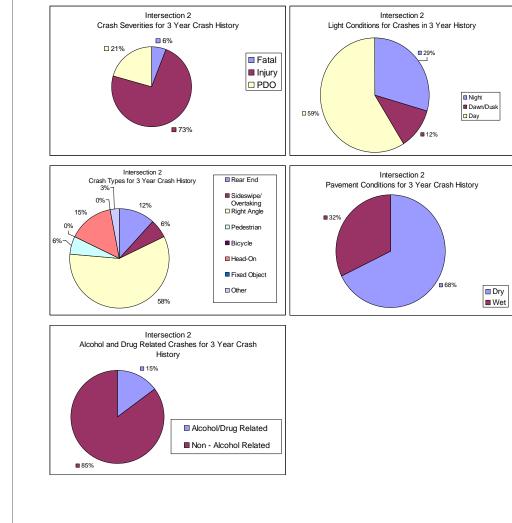
The diagnoses for Intersections 2 and 9 are presented, followed by the diagnoses for Segments 1 and 5.

- 395 The following information is presented for each site:
- 396 A set of pie charts summarizing the crash data;
- 397 Collision diagram;
- 398 Condition diagram; and
- A written assessment and summary of the site diagnosis.
- The findings are used in the *Chapter 6* examples to select countermeasures forIntersections 2 and 9 and Segments 1 and 5.

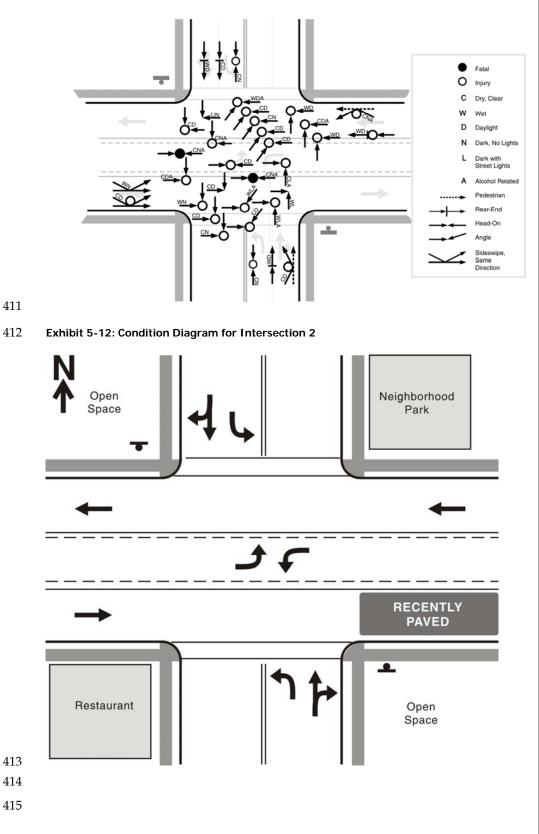
402 **5.7.1**. Intersection 2 Assessment

403 Exhibit 5-10 contains crash summary statistics for Intersection 2. Exhibit 5-11 404 illustrates the collision diagram for Intersection 2. Exhibit 5-12 is the condition 405 diagram for Intersection 2. All three exhibits were generated and analyzed to 406 diagnose Intersection 2.

407 Exhibit 5-10: Crash Summary Statistics for Intersection 2



410 Exhibit 5-11: Collision Diagram for Intersection 2



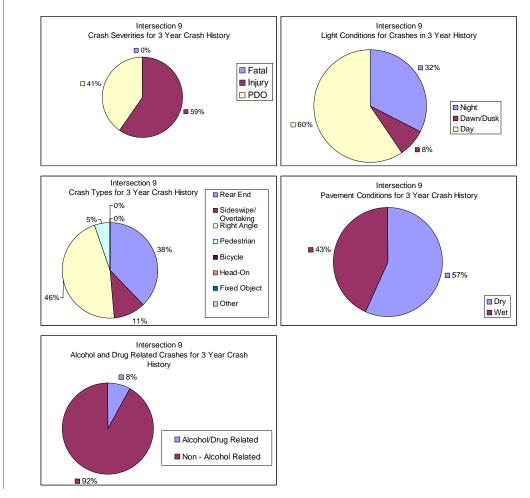
416 The crash summary statistics and collision diagram for Intersection 2 indicate 417 angle collisions (including right-angle collisions) comprise a large proportion of 418 crashes. Vehicle direction and movement at the time of the collisions indicate that the 419 angle crashes result from vehicles turning onto and off of the minor road as well as 420 vehicles traveling through the intersection on the minor road across the major road. 421 In the last three years, there have also been five head-on collisions, two of which 422 resulted in a fatality.

423 An Intersection 2 field assessment confirmed the crash data review. It also 424 revealed that because of the free flow condition on the major street, very few gaps are 425 available for vehicles traveling onto or from the minor street. Sight distances on all 426 four approaches were measured and considered adequate. During the off-peak field 427 assessment, vehicle speeds on the major street were over 10 miles per hour faster 428 than the posted speed limit and inappropriate for the desired character of the 429 roadway.

430 **5.7.2.** Intersection 9 Assessment

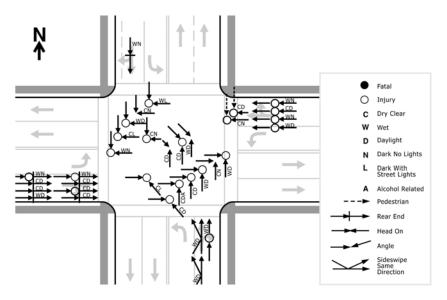
Exhibit 5-13 contains crash summary characteristics for Intersection 9. Exhibit 514 illustrates the collision diagram for Intersection 9. Exhibit 5-15 is the condition
diagram for Intersection 9. These exhibits were generated and analyzed to diagnose
the safety concern at Intersection 9.

435 Exhibit 5-13: Crash Summary Statistics for Intersection 9

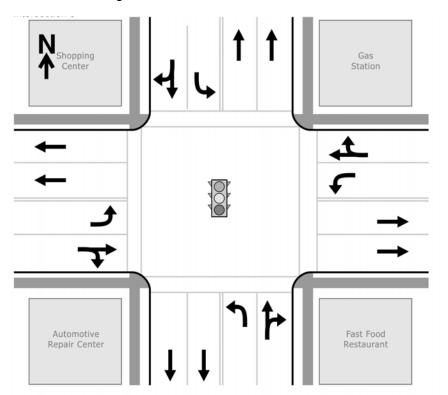




438 Exhibit 5-14: Collision Diagram for Intersection 9



440 Exhibit 5-15: Condition Diagram of Intersection 9



441

The crash summary statistics and collision diagram indicate that a majority of the crashes at Intersection 9 are rear-end and angle collisions. In the past three years, the rear-end collisions occurred primarily on the east- and westbound approaches, and the angle collisions occurred in the middle of the intersection. All of the crashes wereinjury or PDO collisions.

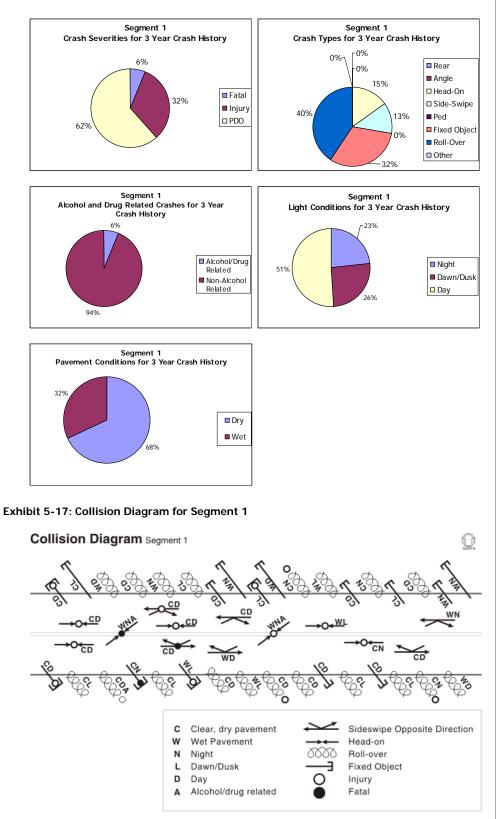
447 A review of police crash reports indicates that many of the rear-end collisions on 448 the east- and westbound approaches were partially due to the abrupt stop of vehicles 449 traveling east- and westbound. Police crash reports also indicate that many of the 450 angle collisions resulted from vehicles attempting to stop at the last second and 451 continuing into the intersection or vehicles speeding up at the last second in an 452 attempt to make it through the intersection during a yellow light.

453 Observations of local transportation officials reported that motorists on the east-454 and westbound approaches are not able to see the signal lenses far enough in 455 advance of the intersection to stop in time for a red light. Local officials confirmed 456 that national criteria for sight distance were met. Horizontal or vertical curves were 457 not found to limit sight distance; however, morning and evening sun glare appears to 458 make it difficult to determine signal color until motorists are essentially at the 459 intersection. The average speed on the roadway also indicates that the existing 8-inch 460 lenses may not be large enough for drivers to see at an appropriate distance to 461 respond to the signal color. Other possible factors are that the length of the yellow 462 interval and the clearance interval can be lengthened considering the limited 463 visibility of the signal lenses. Factors of this sort are suggested to be evaluated further 464 and compared with established criteria.

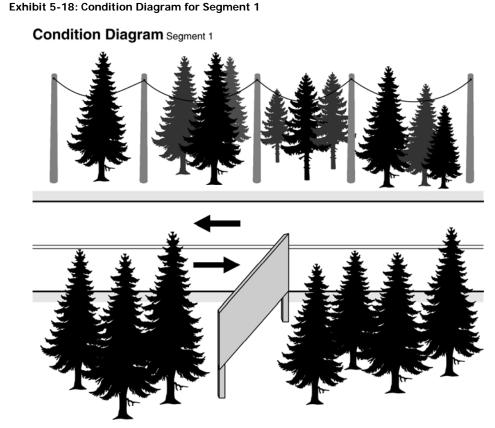
465 **5.7.3**. Segment 1 Assessment

Exhibit 5-16 contains crash summary characteristics for Segment 1. Exhibits 5-17
and 5-18 illustrate the collision diagram and the condition diagram for Segment 1,
respectively. All three of these exhibits were generated and analyzed to diagnose the
safety concern at Segment 1.

470 Exhibit 5-16: Crash Summary Statistics for Segment 1



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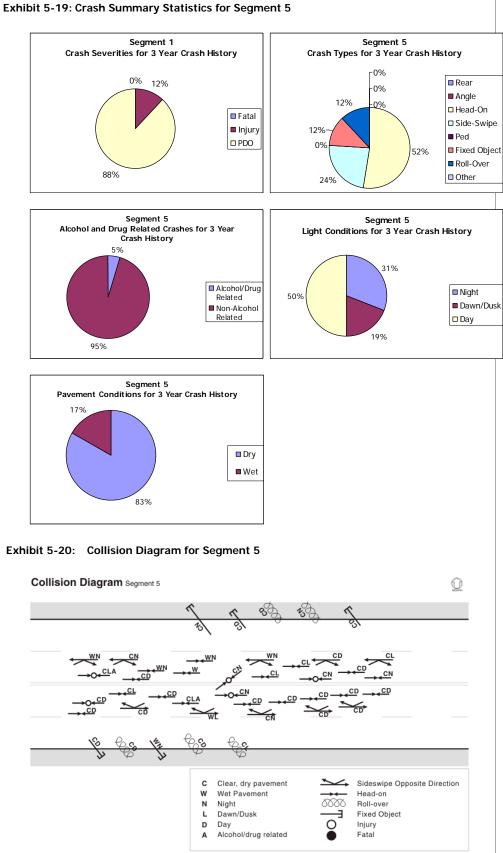
476 Segment 1 is an undivided two-lane rural highway; the end points of the 477 segment are defined by intersections. The descriptive crash statistics indicate that 478 three-quarters of the crashes on this segment in the last three years involved vehicles 479 running off the road (i.e., roll-over or fixed object). The statistics and crash reports do 480 not show a strong correlation between the run-off-the-road crashes and lighting 481 conditions.

482 A detailed review of documented site characteristics and a field assessment 483 indicate that the roadway is built to the roadway agency's criteria and is included in 484 the roadway maintenance cycle. Past speed studies and observations made by the 485 roadway agency's engineers indicate that vehicle speeds on the rural two-lane 486 roadway are within 5 to 8 mph of the posted speed limit. Sight distance and 487 delineation were also determined to be appropriate.

5.7.4.

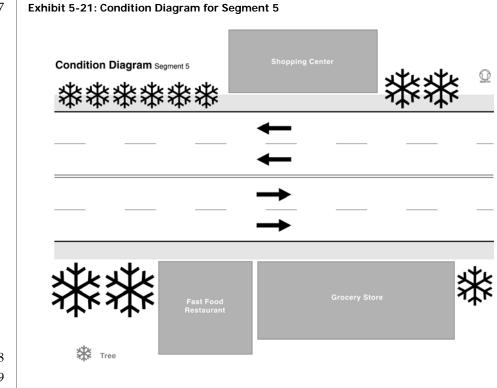
489 Exhibit 5-19 contains crash summary characteristics for Segment 5. Exhibit 5-20 490 illustrates the collision diagram for Segment 5. Exhibit 5-21 is the condition diagram 491 for Segment 5. All three of these exhibits were generated and analyzed to diagnose 492 Segment 5.

Segment 5 Assessment



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Segment 5 is a four-lane undivided urban arterial. It was originally constructed as a two-lane undivided highway. As a nearby city has grown, suburbs have developed around it, creating the need for the current four-lane roadway. During the past three years, the traffic volumes have increased dramatically, and the crash history over the same three years includes a high percentage (76%) of cross-over crashes (i.e., head-on and opposite direction side-swipe).

506 **5.8**. **REFERENCES**

507	1.	Austroads. Road Safety Audit. Austroads 2nd Ed., 2002.
508 509	2.	FHWA. <i>Road Safety Fundamentals</i> . Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety by BMI-SG (draft), 2004.
510 511 512 513	3.	Harkey, D. <i>GIS-Based Crash Referencing and Analysis System</i> . Highway Safety Information System Summary Report No. FHWA-RD-99-081, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, McLean, VA, February 1999.
514 515	4.	ITE. <i>Manual of Transportation Engineering Studies,</i> Institute of Transportation Engineers, Washington, DC, 1994.
516 517	5.	Ogden, K.W. Safer Roads: A Guide to Road Safety Engineering. Ashgate Publishing Limited, 1996.
518 519	6.	PIARC Technical Committee on Road Safety (C13). <i>Road Safety Manual.</i> World Road Association, 2003.
520		

521 APPENDIX A – EXAMPLE OF POLICE CRASH 522 REPORT

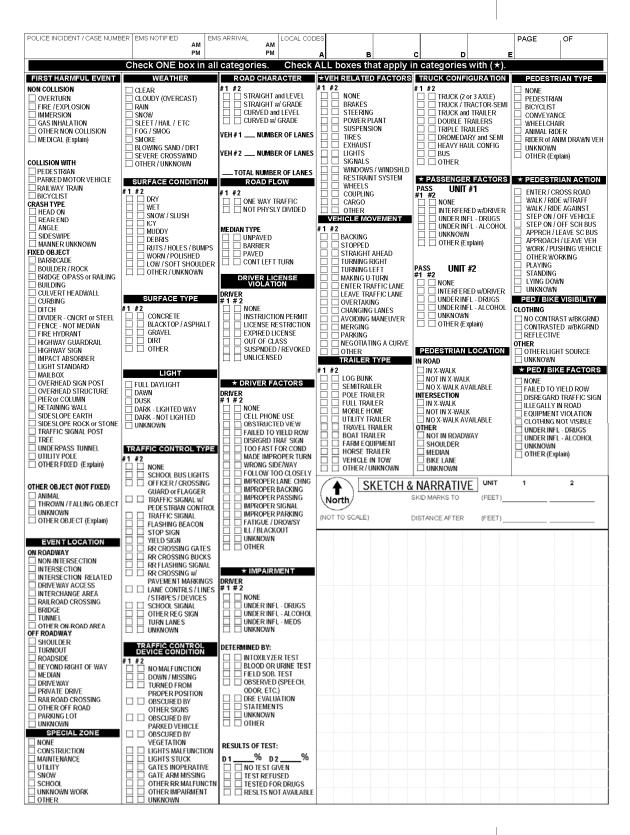
523 Exhibit A-1: Police Traffic Crash Form

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RE STO SPD INSURANCE COMPANY	INSURANCE POL	ICY NUMBER)		
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Source: Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles

550 Exhibit A-2: Police Traffic Crash Form (page 2)



APPENDIX B – SITE CHARACTERISTIC 552 CONSIDERATIONS 553 554 The following provides a list of questions and data to consider when reviewing 555 past site documentation.⁽³⁾ This list is intended to serve as an example and is not 556 exhaustive. 557 Traffic Operations 558 Do past studies indicate excessive speeds at or through the site? 559 If the site is a signalized intersection, is there queuing on the intersection 560 approaches? 561 If the site is a signalized intersection, what signal warrant does the intersection satisfy? Does the intersection currently satisfy the signal 562 563 warrants? 564 Is there adequate capacity at or through the site? 565 What is the proportion of heavy vehicles traveling through the site? Does mainline access to adjacent land negatively influence traffic operations? 566 567 Geometric Conditions 568 Is the roadway geometry in the vicinity of the site consistent with the 569 adopted functional classification? 570 What are the available stopping sight distances and corner sight distances at 571 each driveway or intersection? 572 Have there been recent roadway geometry changes that may have 573 influenced crash conditions? 574 How does the site design compare to jurisdictional design criteria and other 575 related guidelines? Non-compliance and/or compliance does not directly relate to safe or unsafe conditions, though it can inform the diagnostic 576 577 process. 578 Physical Conditions 579 Do the following physical conditions indicate possible safety concerns: 580 pavement conditions; 0 581 0 drainage; 582 lighting; 0 583 landscaping; 0 584 signing or striping; and, 0 585 0 driveway access. 586 Are there specific topographic concerns or constraints that could be 587 influencing conditions?

588	Planned Conditions
589 590	Are improvements planned at the site or in the vicinity that may influence safety conditions?
591 592 593	How will the planned conditions affect the function and character of the site? What is the objective of the planned changes (i.e. increase capacity, etc.)? How could these changes influence safety?
594	Are there planning or policy statements relating to the site such as:
595	o functional classification;
596	 driveway access management;
597	 pedestrian, bicycle, transit, or freight policies; and,
598	o future connections for motorized traffic, pedestrians, or cyclists.
599	Transit, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Activity
600	What transportation modes do people use to travel through the site?
601 602	Is there potential to introduce other travel modes at the site (i.e. new bus stops, sidewalks, bike lanes, or multi-use path)?
603	Are bus stops located in the vicinity of the site?
604	Is there a continuous bicycle or pedestrian network in the area?
605 606	What visual clues exist to alert motorists to pedestrians and bicyclists (e.g. striped bike lanes, curb extensions at intersections for pedestrians)?
607	Is there any historical information relating to multimodal concerns such as:
608	 roadway shoulders and edge treatments;
609	 transit stop locations;
610	 exclusive or shared transit lanes;
611	o bicycle lanes;
612	o sidewalks; and,
613	o adjacent parking.
614	Heavy Vehicle Activity
615	Are there concerns related to heavy vehicles. Such concerns could include:
616	 sight distance or signal operations;
617	 emergency vehicle access and mobility;
618	 freight truck maneuvers in the site vicinity; and,
619	• presence of road maintenance or farm vehicles.
620	Land Use Characteristics
621 622	Do the adjacent land uses lead to a high level of driveway turning movements onto and off of the roadway?

623 624	Do the land uses attract vulnerable user groups (e.g., small children going to school, library or day-care; elderly people walking to and from a retirement
625	center or retirement living facility; a playground or ball field where children
626	may not be focused on the roadway)?
627 628	Are adjacent land uses likely to attract a particular type of transportation mode, such as large trucks or bicycles?
629 630	Do the adjacent land uses lead to a mix of users familiar with the area and others who may not be familiar with the area, such as tourists?
631	Public Comments
632	What is the public perception of site conditions?
633	Have comments been received about any specific safety concerns?

APPENDIX C – PREPARATION FOR CONDUCTING AN ASSESSMENT OF FIELD CONDITIONS

637 Select Participants

638 The field investigation is most successful when conducted from a multi-modal, multi-disciplinary perspective.⁽¹⁾ It is ideal to include experts in pedestrian, bicycle, 639 640 transit, and motorized vehicle transportation, as well as law enforcement and emergency service representatives. A multi-modal, multi-disciplinary perspective 641 642 may produce ideas and observations about the site that enhance the engineering 643 observations and development of countermeasures. However, field investigations 644 can also take place on a smaller scale where two or three people from a roadway 645 agency are involved. In these instances, the individuals conducting the investigation can make an effort to keep multi-modal and multi-disciplinary perspectives in mind 646 647 while evaluating and conducting the field investigation.

648 Advanced Coordination

The following activities are suggested to occur in advance of the fieldinvestigation in an effort to increase the effectiveness of the investigation:

- Team members review summaries of the crash analyses and site characteristics;
- The team members review a schedule and description of expected roles and outcomes from the investigation.
- A schedule is developed that identifies the number of field reviews and the time of day for each review. If possible, two field trips are useful: one during the day and another at night.
- 658 While in the field, the following tools may be useful:
- 659 Still and/or video camera
- 660 Stopwatch
- 661 Safety vest and hardhat
- 662 Measuring device
- 663 Traffic counting board
- 664 Spray paint
- 665 Clipboards and notepads
- 666 Weather protection
- 667 Checklist for site investigation
- 668 As-built design plans
- 669 Summary notes of the site characteristics assessment
- 670 Summary notes of the crash data analysis

APPENDIX D – FIELD REVIEW CHECKLIST 671

672 Roadway Segment

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673 A roadway segment may include a portion of two-lane undivided, multi-lane undivided, or multi-lane divided highways in a rural, urban, or suburban area. 674 675 Access may either be controlled (using grade-separated interchanges) or uncontrolled 676 (via driveways or other access locations). Consideration of horizontal and vertical 677 alignment and cross-sectional elements can help to determine possible accident 678 contributory factors. The presence and location of auxiliary lanes, driveways, 679 interchange ramps, signs, pavement marking delineation, roadway lighting, and 680 roadside hardware is also valuable information. The prompt list below contains 681 several prompts (not intended to be exhaustive) that could be used when performing 682 field investigations on roadway segments: (2)

- Are there clear sight lines between the mainline road and side streets or driveways, or are there obstructions that may hinder visibility of conflicting flows of traffic?
- 686 Does the available stopping sight distance meet local or national stopping sight distance criteria for the speed of traffic using the roadway segment? 687 688 (See AASHTO's "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets" or other guidance documents). Non-compliance and/or compliance does not 689 690 directly relate to safe or unsafe conditions, though it can inform the 691 diagnostic process.
- 692 Is the horizontal and vertical alignment appropriate given the operating 693 speeds on the roadway segment?
- 694 Are passing opportunities adequate on the roadway segment?
- 695 Are all through travel lanes and shoulders adequate based on the composition of traffic using the roadway segment? 696
- 697 Does the roadway cross-slope adequately drain rainfall and snow runoff?
 - Are auxiliary lanes properly located and designed?
- Are interchange entrance and exit ramps appropriately located and 700 designed?
 - Are median and roadside barriers properly installed?
- 702 Is the median and roadside (right of traveled way) free from fixed objects 703 and steep embankment slopes?
- 704 Are bridge widths appropriate?
 - Are drainage features within the clear zone traversable?
 - Are sign and luminaire supports in the clear zone breakaway?
 - Is roadway lighting appropriately installed and operating?
- 708 Are traffic signs appropriately located and clearly visible to the driver?
- 709 Is pavement marking delineation appropriate and effective?

710 711	Is the pavement surface free of defects and does it have adequate skid resistance?
712	Are parking provisions satisfactory?
713	Signalized Intersections
714 715 716 717 718 719 720	Examples of geometric and other signalized intersection characteristics that may prove valuable in determining a possible crash contributory factor at a signalized intersection include: the number of approach legs and their configuration, horizontal and vertical alignment design, cross-section elements, median type (if any), traffic signal phasing, parking locations, driveway access points, and any turn prohibitions. The signalized intersection safety prompt list provided below contains several examples of questions worthy of consideration when performing field investigations:
721 722	Is appropriate sight distance available to all users on each intersection approach?
723	Is the horizontal and vertical alignment appropriate on each approach leg?
724	Are pavement markings and intersection control signing appropriate?
725 726	Are all approach lanes adequately designed based on the composition of traffic using the intersection?
727	Is the roadway cross-slope adequately draining rainfall and snow runoff?
728	Is the median, curbs, and channelization layout appropriate?
729 730	Are turning radii and tapers adequately designed based on the traffic composition using the intersection?
731	Is roadway lighting appropriately installed and operating?
732 733	Are traffic signs appropriately located and clearly visible to the driver on each approach leg?
734	Is the pavement free of defects and is there adequate skid resistance?
735	Are parking provisions satisfactory?
736	Is traffic signal phasing appropriate for turning traffic on each approach?
737 738	Are driveways and other access points appropriately located on each intersection approach leg?
739	Unsignalized Intersections
740 741 742 743	Unsignalized intersections may be stop or yield controlled or may not contain any control. Unsignalized intersections may contain three or more approach legs and different lane configurations on each leg. Data that may prove valuable in determining a possible crash contributory factor at an unsignalized intersection

r45 determining a possible chash contributory factor at an unsignalized intersection
r44 includes: the number of approach legs and their configuration, type of traffic control
r45 (none, yield, or stop), horizontal and vertical alignment design, cross-section
r46 elements, median type (if any), parking locations, driveway access points, and any
r47 turn prohibitions. The prompt list⁽²⁾ provided below includes questions to consider
r48 when performing field investigations at unsignalized intersections:

749 750	Is appropriate sight distance available to all users on each intersection approach?
751	Is the horizontal and vertical alignment appropriate on each approach leg?
752	Are pavement markings and intersection control signing appropriate?
753 754	Are all approach lanes adequately designed based on the composition of traffic using the intersection?
755	Is the roadway cross-slope adequately draining rainfall and snow runoff?
756	Is the layout of the curbs and channelization appropriate?
757 758	Are turning radius and tapers adequately designed based on the traffic composition using the intersection?
759	Is roadway lighting appropriately installed and operating?
760 761	Are traffic signs appropriately located and clearly visible to the driver on each approach leg?
762	Is the pavement free of defects, and is there adequate skid resistance?
763	Are parking provisions satisfactory?
764 765	Are driveways and other access points appropriately located on each intersection approach leg?
766	Highway-Railroad Grade Crossings
767 768	Data that is valuable prior to determining a possible crash contributory factor at a highway-rail grade crossing includes:
769	 Sight distance on each approach and at the crossing itself;
770	 Existing pavement marking location and condition; and,
771	 Traffic control devices (i.e., advance warning signs, signals).

772 APPENDICES REFERENCES

- 1. Austroads. *Road Safety Audit*. Austroads 2nd Ed, 2002.
- Kuhn, B. T., M. T. Pietrucha, and P. M. Garvey. *Development of a Safety Audit Process for Pennsylvania*, Report No. PTI 9702, Pennsylvania Transportation Institute, University Park, PA, August 1996.
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