



## A Guide for Addressing Aggressive-Driving Collisions

One of a Series of Guides to Help States Improve Highway Safety

### Aggressive Drivers: Fast Becoming a Critical Highway Safety Problem

More than 60 percent of drivers see unsafe driving by others as a major personal threat to themselves and their families. The problem of aggressive driving is becoming more prevalent and is increasing in seriousness.

Traits exhibited by aggressive drivers include tailgating, flashing headlights out of annoyance with other drivers, making rude gestures or being verbally abusive, and deliberately obstructing or preventing another driver from moving his or her vehicle.

Aggressive drivers also tend to be high-risk drivers—more likely to drink and drive, speed, or drive without wearing a safety belt. Their vehicles provide anonymity, and they have little concern for other drivers. Young male drivers have the highest probability of being cited for aggression-related offenses.

Aggressive driving is a contextual violation. Major components of the context are the driver's physical and psychological state and the roadway environment.

#### Representative Countermeasures

- ✓ **Deter aggressive driving in specific populations, including those with a history of such behavior, and at specific locations:** Target enforcement, conduct educational and public information campaigns, and educate and impose sanctions against repeat offenders.
- ✓ **Improve the driving environment to eliminate or minimize the external “triggers” of aggressive driving:** Change or mitigate the effects of identified elements in the environment, reduce delays, and provide better information about delays.





## How the Implementation Guide Helps You

The guide lists practical countermeasure strategies, categorized by relative cost to implement. Many of these strategies have been formally evaluated to demonstrate effectiveness. Other strategies lack formal evaluation, but have been implemented with promising results.

The guide lays out the technical attributes of each countermeasure strategy in detail: target audience, expected effectiveness, keys to success, potential

difficulties, appropriate measures and data, and associated need for support services.

The guide reveals organizational, institutional, and policy issues; issues affecting implementation time; costs involved; training and other personnel needs; and legislative needs (if any).

## Web-Based Support for More Information

Backing up the guide is a series of appendixes and exhibits developed specifically to provide in-depth information useful to anyone implementing this part of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, together with a collection of general knowledge sharing documents providing background, data, and information of significant value to state and local implementers.

This guide is one in a series developed to assist states in their efforts to improve highway safety. Copies of the plan, the guides, the Integrated Safety Management System, Self-Assessment Tool, and related documents, may be obtained on the Internet at [safety.transportation.org](http://safety.transportation.org).



Printed copies of the guides can be obtained from:  
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Implementing the AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan