

TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – SAFETY

TOOLE DESIGN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE SAFER STREETS PRIORITY FINDER (SSPF)



Toole Design has received a 2022 Transportation Achievement Award in the Safety Category for the Development and Use of the Safer Streets Priority Finder (SSPF), an open-source tool to conduct analysis using highly complex approaches for identifying unsafe locations to vulnerable road users. The Transportation Achievement Awards recognize excellence in the advancement of transportation to meet human needs, by entities concerned with transportation, such as governmental agencies, legislative bodies, consulting firms, industry partners, and other organizations. Awards are presented in five categories: Complete Streets, TSMO, Safety, Planning, and Traffic Engineering.

The SSPF is reflective of the Safe System Approach and provides practitioners with a way to understand historical crash patterns, create a high-injury network, and evaluate risk systemically. Users can upload local road network and crash data or select from nationally available datasets to explore historical crash patterns with various descriptive statistics and create input data for a High Injury Network. It builds off previous work from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to offer a standardized modeling framework available to understand and analyze future risk in real dollar values if no changes occur to the transportation network. The results from the SSPF can be used for project identification and prioritization and are accessible through various reporting and data retrieval mechanisms within the application.

The SSPF advances innovative concepts in systemic safety and includes various writings and use cases for real-world applications. With the results from the descriptive statistics, sliding windows analysis, and Safer Streets Model, the tool reduces the barriers to high-cost safety analysis and applies a proactive approach to safety as identified in the Safe System Approach. It can improve transportation for people with disabilities and underserved communities. Leveraging the SSPF will also help states, regions, and local jurisdictions implement multimodal networks that are accessible, interconnected, and allow all users, including pedestrians and bicyclists, to reach their destination safely and conveniently. Today the SSPF is being used by professionals, researchers, and other practitioners across the US and being used on planning projects from New Orleans, LA, to Anne Arundel County, MD, to Milwaukee, WI.

Congratulations to team members Theja Putta, Toole Design; Daniel Jatres, and Jennifer E. Ruley, City of New Orleans; and Tara Tolford and Maryam Izadi, University of New Orleans Transportation Institute. Get information and to access the tool [here](#).