

GLOSSARY

Terminology can be confusing to the lay audience. Ensuring stakeholders understand key concepts is crucial. When we say, we mean:

Fatal/Serious Injury Crashes: We use this term a lot when discussing the CSAP. It means a crash where someone dies or suffers an incapacitating injury during the crash event. These are major crashes, not fender-benders. Events this severe leave lasting consequences – physical, emotional, monetary, and often legal – and can result in grieving loved ones or loss of basic autonomy and productivity if injuries lead to permanent disability.

Note: Always use the term “crash,” never use the term “accident.”

High Injury Network: Streets or roads that have the greatest need for improved safety. This is determined by a data-driven process. The City of Des Moines High Injury Network covers 7.4% of the city’s roadway miles – Those areas experienced 59% of fatal and serious injury crashes.

Proven Safety Countermeasures: A wide toolbox of infrastructure solutions that are backed by research and proven to reduce the frequency or severity of crashes.

Safe System Approach: The Safe System Approach, or SSA, was created to bridge the gaps between road users, roadway designs, vehicle systems, driver behavior, and access to emergency medical care. The SSA builds and reinforces multiple layers of protection to prevent crashes from happening and minimize harm when they do. A visualization of the Safe System Approach can be seen at right.

Street or Roadway: Both terms mean a [usually] paved path for travel. “Streets” typically refer to roads that connect local community spaces, like neighborhoods and commercial districts. They usually include room for vehicles, pedestrians and entries/exits to driveways, parking lots, and other streets. “Roadways” typically mean car-first roads that connect more widely spread out areas. They may have more controlled access and higher speed limits. Both streets and roadways experience fatal and serious injury crashes and both are included in the CSAP – but strategies to improve safety may differ between the two.

Vulnerable Road User (VRU): a person who is walking, biking, or rolling on or near a road.

The Safe System Approach

