

## **A Safe System Collaboration Support Toolkit: Using Systems Thinking Tools to Inform Safe System and Vision Zero Planning and Action**

This toolkit was designed for road safety practitioners interested in tools to support a holistic, systems-based approach to their transportation safety work.

A Safe System approach requires sustained and strong collaboration among multiple agencies, organizations, and individuals that influence and shape transportation systems. Systems thinking tools provide practical and structured tools for creating and sustaining these types of collaborations, helping partners shape transportation safety-related goals, plans, and actions in a shared manner.

In this project, we tailored and supported use of five systems thinking tools (5 Rs Framework, Goal and Action Alignment Mapping, System Support Mapping, Balance of Petals Diagramming, and Causal Loop Diagramming) across a variety of transportation-related coalitions and partnerships to help meet systems-based strategic planning and collaboration goals. We provide descriptions, case studies, how-to guides, and evaluation feedback on all five tools.

Through this work, we found that the tools and resources presented in this toolkit can help support Safe System coalitions and partnerships, Vision Zero task forces, and other transportation-related partnerships in developing new partnerships, expanding thinking on points of intervention, conducting systems-based strategic planning, critically examining equity in their work, and establishing coalitions that strategically consider both the benefits and asks of specific partners.

While there is general recognition of the need for considerably improved cooperation and collaboration across diverse agencies to implement the Safe System approach, authentic collaboration across agencies is hard and rarely sustained. Agencies and stakeholders have different priorities, different funding structures, and competing demands that make integrated work and partnership extremely challenging. Furthermore, there are few tools or resources in widespread use that help support and sustain this type of collaborative work.

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