



The Crash Data Consortium consists of local governments within the Denver region, state and federal partners, and other important stakeholders with an interest in improving crash data collection, processing, analysis and mapping. The Crash Data Consortium newsletter intends to improve communication among traffic safety professionals, featuring updates from consortium members relating to crash data in the region and state.

The Denver Regional Council of Governments will host a meeting of the crash data consortium in April or May 2023.

Kick-off and crash data conversations

Article submitted by Erik Braaten, senior planner of the Crash Data Consortium at DRCOG. Erik can be reached at ebraaten@drcog.org.

Thanks to all who joined DRCOG for the kick-off of the crash data consortium on Nov. 10 and to all who have participated in crash data conversations with DRCOG staff throughout December and January. More than 60 individuals joined DRCOG during the kick-off and contributed their ideas for how to collaborate and improve crash data collection, processing and analysis in the Denver region. Following the kick-off, DRCOG invited interested parties to respond to an online survey and speak with staff directly. As a result of the survey and other outreach, DRCOG staff have conducted crash data conversations with 33 individuals ranging from traffic engineers, transportation planners, fire district community risk reduction specialists, law enforcement and geographic information system professionals, representing 22 local, state and federal organizations.

DRCOG staff are working to compile what has been learned through various surveys, a kick-off workshop and crash data conversations into a comprehensive inventory of data sources, analysis of use cases, along with objectives and issues encountered in the region to understand how stakeholders are currently using crash data. Preliminary results from this inventory will be shared with the consortium this spring. There is still the opportunity for communities and organizations to provide their unique insights to inform the inventory and the consortium's approach to improving regional crash data.

Those who have not had the opportunity to share their views on crash data with the consortium may schedule a meeting by directly reaching out to Erik at ebraaten@drcog.org, or by using the button below.

Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee Crash Manual Task Force

Article submitted by Matthew Brown, PE, PTOE of Stolfus & Associates. Matthew can be reached at matt@stolfusandassociates.com.

The Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee is led by seven state agencies with a keen interest in the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, accessibility, uniformity and integration of Colorado's traffic records systems. The Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee's activity led to the development, testing and adoption of a new traffic crash reporting form and related Investigating Officers Crash Reporting Manual. The new form increased the amount of data collected for each crash to provide the data necessary to further the state's traffic safety objectives.

The Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee formed a Crash Manual Task Force in late 2022 to review the manual and respond to concerns raised since the deployment of the new form, including the need for clarity around the manual's use of "should," "shall" and "must" which have led to

occasional legal challenges around an officer's actions in the field. Task force members soon realized that an opportunity exists to enhance not only the clarity of the manual but also the user experience with the crash form. Because users of the resulting data have also noted some inconsistencies, the Task Force is also identifying opportunities for enhancements to the manual's instruction as well as training needs to improve data quality.

The task force includes law enforcement officers and trainers, data entry/crash coders, data stewards and crash data analysts. Task force members have shared their experiences with the crash form, manual, the data entry process and resulting data – highlighting mutual challenges among the agencies. To reach a wider audience, user surveys will be distributed statewide and responses will be collected from law enforcement across a range of agency sizes and geographic areas. Users of the data, including traffic and safety practitioners, metropolitan planning organizations and data analysts will also be surveyed for their data observations. Several agencies will be the subject of in-person interviews to provide additional insight. User surveys are anticipated to be complete by the end of March and recommendations related to the manual, training needs and other potential actions for the Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee's consideration will be completed by the task force in June.



Consortium guiding principles

Article submitted by Erik Braaten, senior planner of the Crash Data Consortium at DRCOG. Erik can be reached at ebraaten@drcog.org.

As a result of the responses gathered through a series of surveys over the summer and fall of 2022, the Crash Data Consortium kick-off workshop held on Nov. 10, 2022, and one-on-one conversations with stakeholders, DRCOG staff

have developed draft guiding principles for the crash data consortium including a vision, mission and several goals.

Vision

The consortium is a sustainable and valuable resource to further local and regional roadway safety goals by facilitating collaboration and developing high-quality crash data for the Denver region.

Mission

To bring stakeholders in the Denver region together and improve crash data collection, processing and analysis to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Stakeholders will share expertise and resources to address commonly identified issues of crash data such as timeliness, accuracy, consistency and accessibility.

Goals

- Improve completeness and accuracy of spatial locations.
- Encourage consistency of high-quality data collection.
- Coordinate a timely release of crash data.
- Provide education on crash data collection, organization and analysis.
- Develop an authoritative regional crash dataset.

These guiding principles have been inspired by stakeholder input and conversations and DRCOG staff wants to ensure that what has been distilled and expressed here resonates with the broad group of the consortium. For those that have spoken with DRCOG staff already, please provide any input on the draft vision, mission and goals through the short form found through the button below.

Provide guiding principle feedback

Thanks for reading the Crash Data Consortium's inaugural newsletter! DRCOG staff will periodically keep consortium stakeholders and interested parties up to date through future issues. For those that would like to contribute an article to a future issue of this newsletter, please reach out to Erik at ebraaten@drcog.org.

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