

March 11, 2009

Vermont's Road Safety Audits

By Mario Dupigny-Giroux, Vermont Agency of Transportation Traffic Safety Engineer

IN THIS ISSUE...

- [New RuralTransportation.org Site Unveiled](#)
- [NADO and AMPO Release Guide on RPO and MPO Collaboration](#)
- [New Report Studies Appalachian Highway Corridors](#)
- [Call for Abstracts Open for 2009 National Rural Transportation Conference](#)
- [Apply Now for the 2009 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award](#)
- [Join RPO America on Facebook](#)
- [New Mexico's Regional Councils Tackle Sustainable Transportation](#)
- [Vermont's Road Safety Audits](#)
- [Transportation News and Notes](#)
- [Publication Showcase](#)
- [Calendar](#)

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAOT) has been conducting Road Safety Audits (RSA) with the involvement of the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) since 2000. The role of the RPCs is to bring together local entities and community members and to facilitate the exchange of information and the sharing of concerns with the audit teams. VAOT's audit teams have been typically formed with VAOT and FHWA staff.

In recent years, the RSA program has been concentrating on the review of roads eligible for the High Risk Rural Roads Program (HRRR). Under the HRRR program, twenty-two RSAs were performed in 2007 and thirty more were accomplished in 2008 at intersections or sections of roads of no more than one mile in length. The HRRR sites reviewed were prioritized by the RPCs from their analysis of the crash data and the results of discussions with towns, EMS providers and police officers.

The towns selected were given small grants to accomplish recommendations of the audit teams. Towns were not obliged to implement any of the recommendations, but were expected to provide a written response to explain why they preferred not to implement a remedial action.

The most common actions proposed by the audit teams included the installation or the improvement of signs and pavement markings. The removal of roadside obstacles, the installation of guardrails and the realignment of intersection approaches within the current roadway surface (e.g., by removing some pavements) were other typical actions suggested through the RSA process. Several improvements are to be completed by November 2009.

Towns have been appreciative of the help that they received from this process. One town wrote, "please relay to everyone our appreciation for the help our town received with this intersection. Just having the help to see what we were missing was wonderful and we plan on using some of the simple suggestions made during the site visit on other spots in town."


If you would like additional information on the Vermont AOT RSA program please contact Mario Dupigny-Giroux, PE, Traffic Safety Engineer, at 802.828.0169 or mario.dupigny-giroux@state.vt.us.

This article first appeared in the FHWA Office of Safety Road Safety Audit Newsletter, available at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/rsa/newsletter>, and was reprinted with permission from the author and editor.

Newsletter Links

- ➔ [View Back Issues](#)
- ➔ [Email our Editor](#)
- ➔ [Contact the NADO Staff](#)
- ➔ www.nado.org
- ➔ www.ruraltransportation.org

 [Print Articles](#)

 [Forward to a Friend](#)