

Focus on Reducing Rural Roadway Departures (FoRRRwD)

Reducing Deaths and Serious Injuries on Rural Roads

A roadway departure occurs when a vehicle crosses the edge line or center line of a roadway. In Pennsylvania, more than 300 people die each year on average in rural roadway departure crashes. FoRRwD uses a logical approach with innovative tools and techniques to reduce deaths and serious injuries in rural roadway departure crashes. It is a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Every Day Counts Round 5 (EDC-5) innovation that Pennsylvania championed.



What are the benefits?

- **Proactive approach.** Systemic analysis enables professionals to mitigate high-risk locations, sometimes before crashes even happen.
- **Targeted investments.** Projects are based on data and risk, so investments can be made with more confidence. Flexibility. There is a wide range of analysis and countermeasure selection tools to fit any level of data and expertise.
- **Safer roads.** The combination of proven countermeasures installed at targeted, high-risk locations is the key to reducing rural roadway departures.

How does it work?

FoRRRwD is based on four concepts:

Consider all rural public roads - About half of all fatal and serious injury lane departures in Pennsylvania occur on rural roads. These crashes can occur across the entire roadway network.

Flexible countermeasures that work - Cost-effective countermeasures that are proven to reduce these crashes fall into three categories: a) help drivers stay in their lane, which is the first line of defense; b) reduce the potential for crashes if drivers do leave their lane; and c) minimize the severity of crashes if they happen.

The systemic approach addresses widely dispersed crashes.

Safety analysis tools are used to help identify locations that are at highest risk of roadway departure crashes. A plan to get people home safely - Documenting the systemic analysis into a safety action plan is a powerful way to prioritize safety improvements and justify investment decisions.

How do I learn more?

To learn more about this innovation, visit www.penndot.pa.gov/stic or email penndotstic@pa.gov.