



I-95 Corridor Coalition

State Crash Data Collection and Reporting Systems

Study Objective and Background Information

The I-95 Corridor Coalition has identified the current state of practice and best practices in crash data collection and reporting system to assist Member States in improving the timeliness, accuracy, and accessibility of crash



data. Crash data is essential to improving safety and efficiency on the Corridor's transportation network – it can be analyzed to identify safety hot spots along the corridor and factors contributing to crashes. Frequently, however, crash data is not accessible in a timely manner to law enforcement, transportation agencies, and other entities which utilize the crash data, and crash reports are frequently inaccurate or incomplete.

Electronic Crash Data Systems

Deploying electronic crash collection modules can improve the timeliness, accuracy, and accessibility of crash data being collected by law enforcement agencies at the scene of a crash, and subsequently submitted to the state crash data repository. The widespread support for advancement of electronic crash data systems stems from the heavy reliance of paper-based crash collection and reporting activities on manual procedures, which are costly to administer and can result in untimely reporting. Although electronic crash systems provide a number of advantages over paper-based systems, various challenges exist to implementing these systems (e.g., funding constraints, cross-jurisdictional collaboration, etc.). These challenges are examined in detail in the Final Report.

Electronic Crash Data System **Advantages:**

- *Cost and time savings through direct electronic data submission to state repository.*
- *Improved efficiency and data accuracy through use of auto-populating data fields, bar coding, and built-in audits.*
- *More accurate field-based location tools and GPS capabilities.*
- *Enhanced crash diagram drawing tools.*
- *Ability to link databases, increasing analytic capabilities for data users.*

To download the Final Report, visit:

<http://www.i95coalition.org/i95/Projects/ProjectDatabase/tabid/120/agentType/View/PropertyID/214/Default.aspx>

Recommendations:

The Final Report provides a comprehensive set of recommendations for successful implementation of advanced crash data system technologies, some of which include:

- Identify the ultimate desired outcomes/capabilities of the crash data system - look beyond what is currently possible.
- Incorporate interim solutions and phase upgrades over multiple years to make the upgrades more feasible.
- Involve law enforcement in the development of the system to promote acceptance of the system.
- Collaborate and coordinate with other safety data stakeholders in the state to identify and minimize duplicate efforts and to work toward integrating data systems.
- Proactively market the benefits of electronic data systems (e.g., savings in staff time, accuracy/accessibility of data) to law enforcement agencies throughout the state to encourage electronic report submittal.

The I-95 Corridor Coalition:

A partnership of the Departments of Transportation and related authorities and organizations, from Maine to Florida, working together to accelerate improvements in long-distance freight movement and passenger travel.