

## Goals

The actions, investments, and long-term visioning developed through the Lowcountry Council of Government's (LCOG) Safety Action Plan are directed by the following guiding principles:

### **SAFE ACCESS FOR ALL: SERVING A DIVERSE POPULATION**

**The LCOG is committed to providing safe and effective transportation systems that cater to the needs of a diverse population with demands unique to the region.** These demographics include an aging population of coastal retirees; an unfamiliar population of tourists, particularly during the peak season; and a significant proportion of the population living in rural and underserved communities. Key actions include:

- *Invest in proven education and engineering countermeasures that will aid all drivers in making safe decisions and create a forgiving roadway and roadside environment for unfamiliar or disadvantaged road users. These strategies include, but are not limited to, offset turn lanes, roundabouts, updated signage, improved delineation, other roadway departure countermeasures, roadway lighting and targeted educational initiatives.*
- *Prioritize vulnerable road users by enhancing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to provide renewed transportation alternatives in rural areas; create and promote safe routes to school; improve visibility and mitigate crash risk in high-demand locations; and encourage alternate modes of transportation for the native population as well as those visiting.*

### **A SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH: PRIORITIZING SAFER SPEEDS**

**The LCOG aims to provide facilities that encourage drivers to select speeds consistent with the posted speed and mitigate the risk of severe injuries when crashes do occur.**

Key actions include:

- *Achieve consistency between motorists' speeds and posted speed limits by planning for, redesigning, and monitoring streets to address speed management.*
- *In urban areas, strategically update roadways to recalibrate speed limits and effectively manage the flow of traffic with signal updates.*
- *In rural areas, pave dirt roads and implement roadway departure countermeasures on existing paved roadways that currently promote high speeds and provide limited roadside forgiveness, especially at night or during inclement weather.*

## **CONNECTIVITY AND REDUNDANCY: PROVIDING RELIABLE ROUTES**

The LCOG recognizes the need to provide a transportation network that connects people and places, and to invest in system redundancy that accommodate the area's growth and coastal topography. Key actions include:

- *Prioritize locations that are currently stressed or over-capacity, particularly in locations with one critical point such as bridges and causeways.*
- *Consider all users when connecting locations, especially those that are disadvantaged or otherwise rely on pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure for accessible transportation.*

## **COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, AND COORDINATION**

The LCOG is focused on developing a plan that serves all of its towns, cities, and agencies well and to facilitating effective collaboration between these parties and the general public as safety solutions are identified and implemented. Key actions include:

- *Devote significant time and resources to active collaboration with the public, stakeholders, and peer agencies during and after the development of the plan to ensure that the proposed safety strategies meet the needs of all.*
- *Serve as a liaison and guiding resource for communities seeking to implement the plan's vision and encourage supplemental planning and demonstration activities that enhance the potential benefits of the proposed strategies.*