

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** CMAQ and TAP-L Project Selection Committee

**From:** Doug Ferguson, Senior Analyst

**Date:** March 19, 2026

**Subject:** Highway Transportation Impact Criteria - Safety

**Action Requested:** Discussion

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**Purpose**

Under the current methodology, highway project applications are scored for safety based on IDOT's safety road index as part of the Transportation Impact Criteria. With safety action plans completed throughout the region last year, new data sets are available, and staff are exploring ways to incorporate them into the methodology. Staff will be presenting those data sets for the purpose of setting the stage for potential change recommendations which will be presented at a later meeting.

For reference, here is the current methodology as found on page 13 of the [Application Booklet](#) from the last call for projects cycle:

Safety is a consideration for all highway projects, so if a project addresses a location with significant safety problems, it should be treated as a higher funding priority, other things being equal. Higher crash rates also are associated with nonrecurring congestion. Highway projects will receive a safety need score which is calculated using IDOT's safety road index (SRI) for roadway segments and intersections. The SRI score is based on the location's Potential for Safety Improvement (PSI) score. IDOT developed SRI scores for local and state routes and categorized them by peer group into critical (5 points), high (3 points), medium (2 points), low (1 points), or minimal (0 points). Within each peer group, locations categorized as critical have the highest PSIs, and locations categorized as minimal are less likely to have safety benefits from treatments. The proposed project's safety need score will be the highest SRI category along the project location. This will include both segment and intersection locations. A proposal will only receive a score of 1 to 5 points if the project includes potential safety improvements so sponsors should be prepared to answer project safety improvement questions.