

# Road Safety Audits

A Road Safety Audit (RSA) is a formal safety performance examination of an existing or planned road or intersection by an independent, multi-disciplinary audit team. Road safety audits can be used in any phase of project development from planning and preliminary engineering, to design, to construction. They can also be used to retrofit existing locations.

## The goal of an RSA is to answer these following questions:

- What elements of the road may present a safety concern: to what extent, to which road users, and under what circumstances?
- What opportunities exist to eliminate or mitigate identified safety concerns?

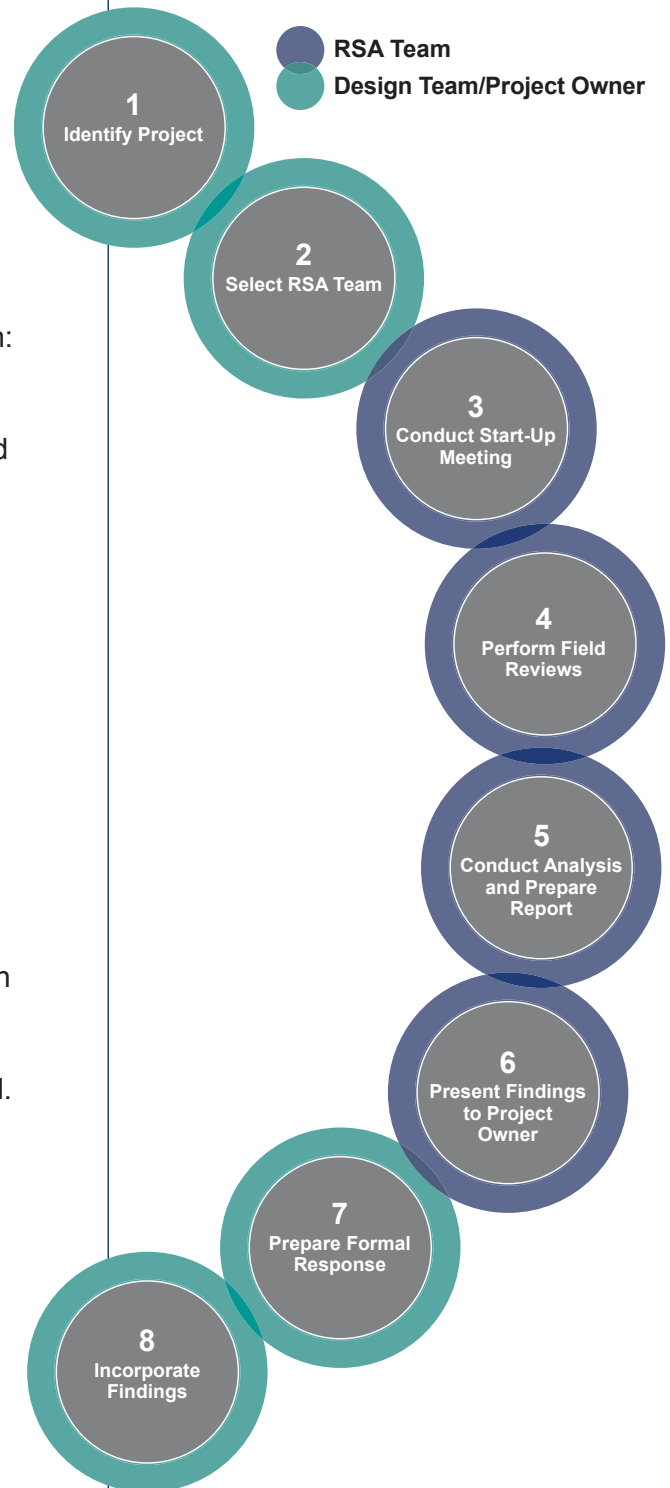
## RSAs are:

- Focused on road safety.
- A formal examination.
- Conducted by an independent, qualified, and multidisciplinary team (more than one auditor).
- Broad enough to consider the safety of all road users and road facilities.

## What are the benefits of a road safety audit program?

- May reduce the number and severity of crashes through engineering and enforcement recommendations.
- May reduce costs by identifying safety issues and correcting them before road projects are built or modified.
- Promote awareness of safe design practices.
- Integrate multimodal safety concerns.
- Consider human factors in all facets of road design and maintenance.

## Responsibilities



**What is the Difference Between RSA and a Traditional Safety Review?**

| Road Safety Audit   | Traditional Safety Review  |
|---|--|
| Performed by a team independent of the project  | The safety review team is usually not completely independent of the design team. |
| Performed by a multi-disciplinary team  | Typically performed by a team with only design and/or safety expertise.          |
| Considers all potential road users  | Often concentrates on motorized traffic.   |
| Accounting for road user capabilities and limitations is an essential element of an RSA | Safety Reviews do not normally consider human factor issues.                     |
| Always generates a formal RSA report  | Often does not generate a formal report.   |
| A formal response report is an essential element of an RSA                              | Often does not generate a formal response report.                                |



Call for RSA projects coming soon! SEMCOG received Safe Streets and Roads for All federal funding to establish a RSA program for Southeast Michigan.

Watch Regional Update for more information.

**Questions?** Contact Jenya Abramovich ([abramovich@semcog.org](mailto:abramovich@semcog.org)).