



# SAFE SYSTEM

APPROACH

Zero is our goal. A Safe System is how we get there.



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

**ZERO** IS OUR GOAL  
A SAFE SYSTEM IS HOW WE GET THERE

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DO YOU KNOW?

**How many people  
died in traffic related  
crashes in 2021?**



Source: Fehr and Peers

## OUR REALITY - NATIONAL



Source: FHWA

**42,939**

Estimated lives lost on  
U.S. roads in 2021

**7,388**

Estimated pedestrians killed in  
U.S. traffic crashes in 2021

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## OUR REALITY - NEW MEXICO

**481**

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Estimated lives lost on  
NM roads in 2021

# VULNERABLE ROAD USER SAFETY SPECIAL RULE

## Vulnerable Road User Safety Special Rule Determination

2021 NUMBER OF NON-MOTORIZED FATALITIES	2021 NUMBER OF FATALITIES	PERCENT OF VRU FATALITIES PER TOTAL FATALITIES ROUNDED TO WHOLE INTEGER	VRU SAFETY SPECIAL RULE APPLIES?
111	481	23%	Yes



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## WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

- It is *not* a slogan
- It is *not* a program
- It is *not* “NEW”
- It is *not* repackaged 4E’s

**It is a paradigm shift in how we approach safety**

# Vision Zero & Safe System Approach

**SAFE SYSTEM**

**APPROACH**

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Source: FHWA



Source: FHWA



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## A NEW PARADIGM

The Safe System approach aims to eliminate fatal and serious injuries for all road users by:

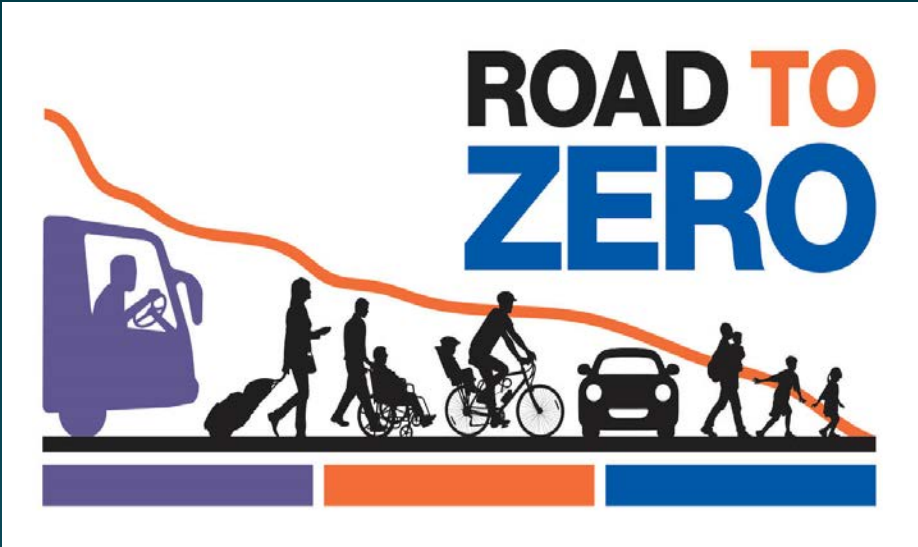


**Accommodating  
human mistakes**



**Keeping impacts on the human  
body at tolerable levels**

# SAFE SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES



Source: Road to Zero



Source: AASHTO



Source: Vision Zero Network

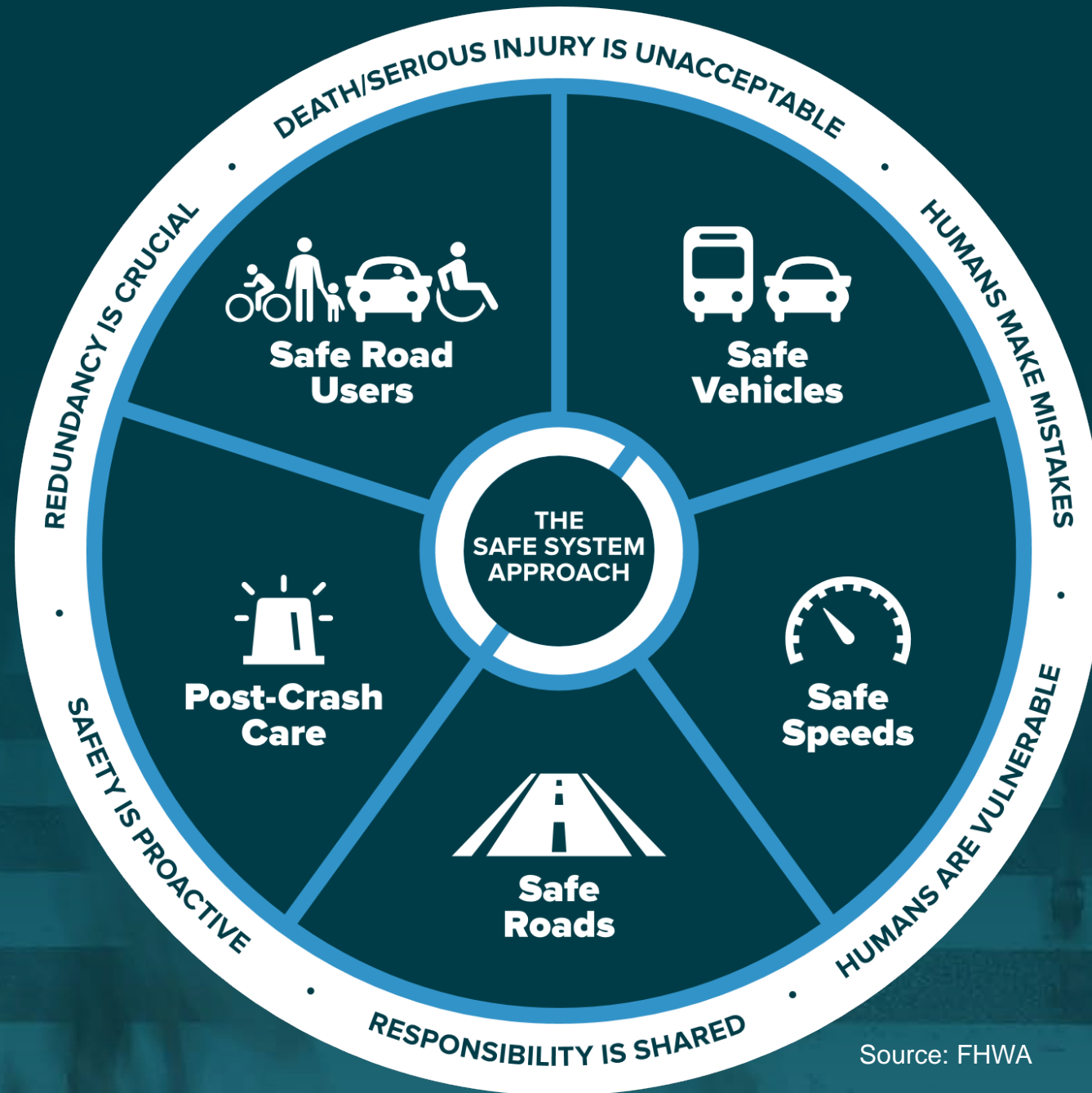
# NATIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY STRATEGY

**U.S. DOT's comprehensive approach to significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's highways, roads, and streets.**

- ❖ Sets a Department-wide vision and goal
- ❖ Adopts the Safe System Approach
- ❖ Identifies new priority actions and notable changes to existing practices
- ❖ Leverages new funding and policies in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to bring this strategy to life.
- ❖ Advances equity and climate goals
- ❖ **Calls others to action**

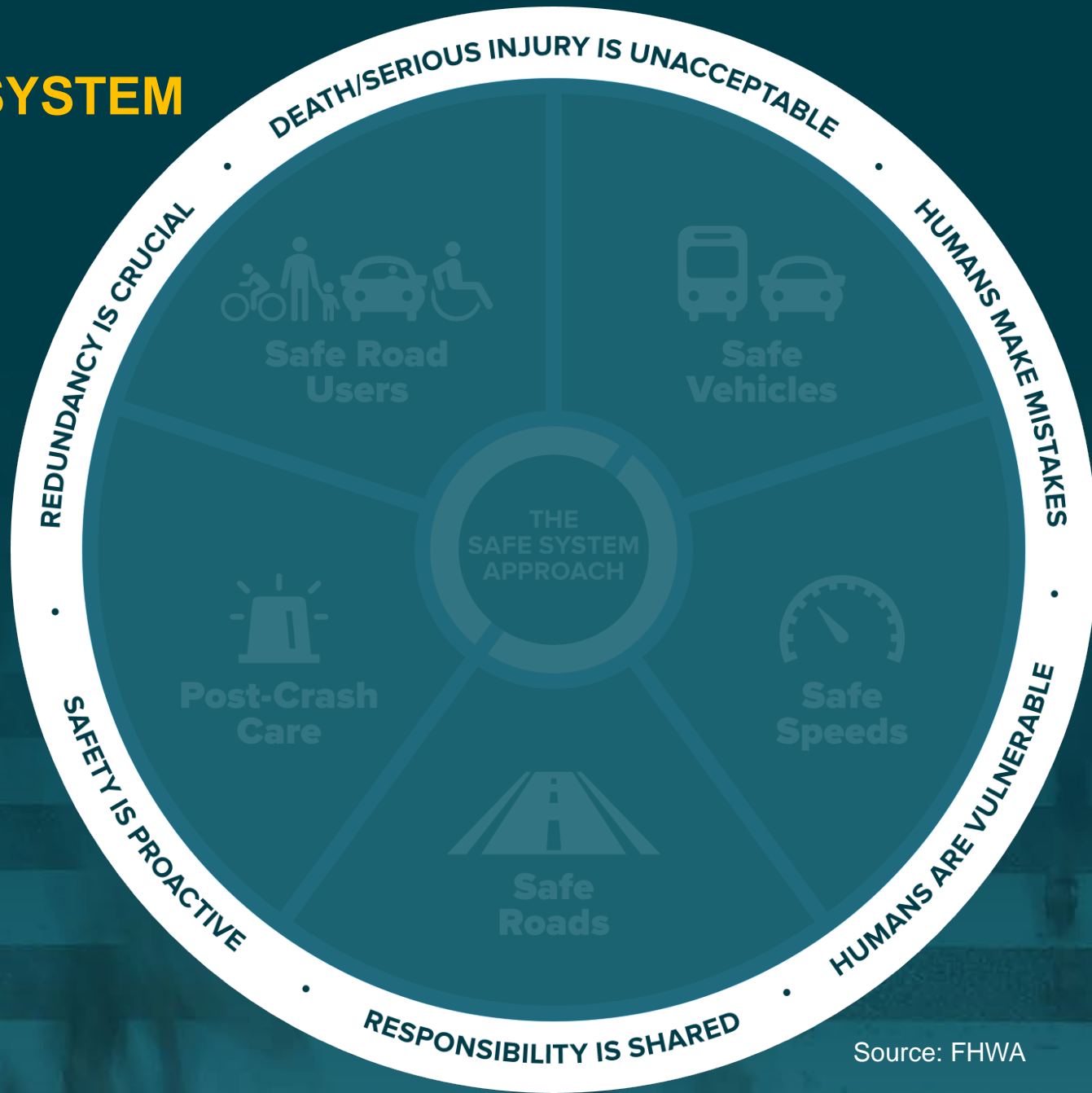


# THE SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH



Source: FHWA

# THE 6 SAFE SYSTEM PRINCIPLES



Death/Serious Injury is unacceptable



Humans make mistakes



Humans are vulnerable



Responsibility is shared



Safety is proactive



Redundancy is crucial

# THE 5 SAFE SYSTEM ELEMENTS



Source: FHWA

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# THE 6 SAFE SYSTEM PRINCIPLES



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Death/serious injury  
is unacceptable



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Humans make  
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Humans are  
vulnerable



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Responsibility is  
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Safety is proactive



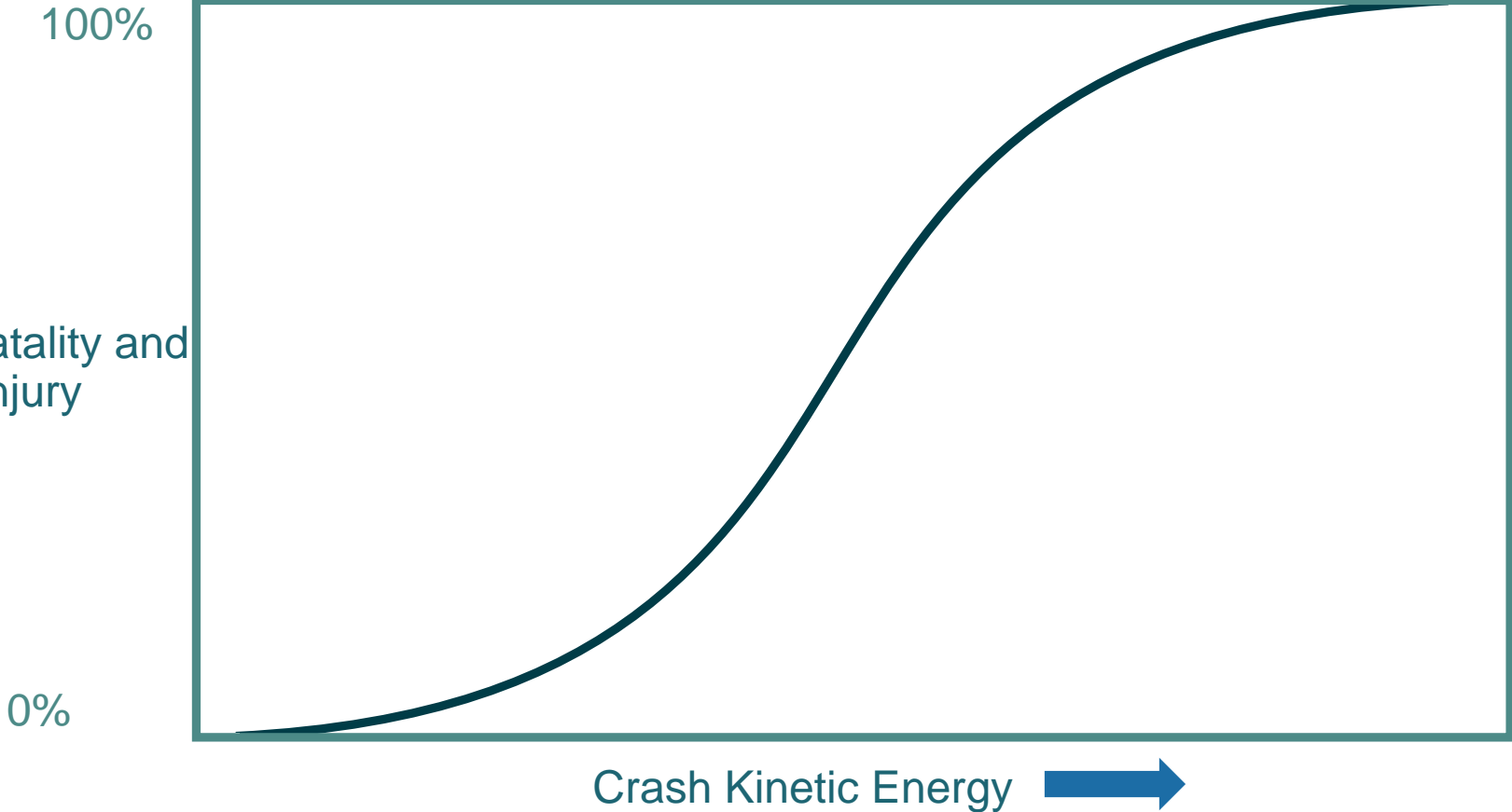
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Redundancy  
is crucial

# HUMANS ARE VULNERABLE



Risk of Fatality and Serious Injury





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# THE 5 SAFE SYSTEM ELEMENTS



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Safe road users



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Safe vehicles



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Safe speeds



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Safe roads



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Post-crash care

# SAFE SPEEDS: REDUCING PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES

Hit by a vehicle  
traveling at

23

MPH

10% risk of death



Hit by a vehicle  
traveling at

42

MPH

50% risk of death



Hit by a vehicle  
traveling at

58

MPH

90% risk of death



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## WHERE ARE YOU ON THE SAFE SYSTEM JOURNEY?

### Traditional approach

Prevent crashes →

Improve human behavior →

Control speeding →

Individuals are responsible →

React based on crash history →

### Safe System approach

Prevent death and serious injuries

Design for human mistakes/limitations

Reduce system kinetic energy

Share responsibility

Proactively identify and address risks

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## TOP TAKEAWAYS

- The Safe System Approach is “principles based”
- Achieving a Safe System requires all five elements to be strengthened - redundancy

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## EXAMPLES

- Connecticut – Vision Zero
- Washington DOT and Washington Traffic Safety Commission – Organizational changes
- Michigan DOT – Safe System Approach in SHSP

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## WHAT CAN NEW MEXICO DO?

- Grow a strong road safety culture
- Adopt the Safe System Approach
- Design for all people using multiple modes



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