

Road Safety Auditing



A road safety audit assesses a road's safety performance and crash potential at various stages of a road/project's life cycle. A road safety audit is defined by Austroads as "...a formal examination of a future road or traffic project or an existing road, in which an independent, qualified team reports on the project's crash potential and safety performance..." Road safety audits take the principles of the safe system approach and apply them proactively. The outcome of a road safety audit is a Road Safety Audit Report that identifies any road safety deficiencies.

If your project includes public works, if not conditioned by RMS or Council already, you should consider at least one Road Safety Audit depending on the size and complexity of the project. For most small projects, a detailed design or pre-opening audit are most common.

AUDIT STAGES

There are three general phases in the life of a road-related area: pre-construction, construction and post-construction. There are a number of audit stages within these phases that are detailed below.

PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHASE

STRATEGIC DESIGN / FEASIBILITY

This stage is commonly undertaken for larger projects to assess higher-level elements such as road alignment and intersection configuration, and other potential issues that cannot be avoided at a later stage.

CONCEPT DESIGN / PRELIMINARY DESIGN

This stage is undertaken to assess potential options or the preferred option, and is good for averting rudimentary risks prior to going through the process of detailed design. It is the earliest stage in which fundamental risks such as a road's functionality may be assessed.

DETAILED DESIGN

This stage is the last audit opportunity to make amendments to the construction plans, and potentially avoid costly post-construction changes. A detailed design audit focuses on all components of the construction plans including road furniture, signs and line marking.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

ROADWORKS

Traffic control plans and their implementation may be audited in this phase to ensure their effectiveness mitigating the safety risks that are introduced by construction works. This audit phase is particularly useful in situations where a TCP has been developed outside appropriate guidelines due to site constraints.

This audit is generally a final check for issues that may have been missed in the design process before the works are open to road users.

PRE-OPENING

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POST-CONSTRUCTION

FINALISATION / POST OPENING

This stage may be conducted either sometime after the completion of the construction of road infrastructure for drivers to normalise to the works, or immediately after completion of the works to assess if there are any undue risks to motorists that exceed usual teething issues from unfamiliar road conditions.

EXISTING ROAD

At this stage an assessment of the existing road with or without accident problems, pedestrian or building access can be made. This audit will help discern existing or potential problem areas based on risk management principles, and allow any other suitable counter measures to be developed.

WHY CHOOSE BARKER RYAN STEWART AS ROAD SAFETY AUDITER

BRS's auditors have issued several road safety audits for a variety of consultants, publicly listed companies, and private developers in NSW and Victoria. Our road safety audits have assisted our diverse range of clients in improving road safety outcomes for a number of projects including subdivisions, commercial and residential developments.

We have the depth and breadth of experience to meet and drive the outcomes required for our clients. Within the standards and guidelines required to conduct an audit, we will aim to provide achievable solutions to ensure the project is delivered in a timely fashion.

ADVANTAGES OF HAVING A ROAD SAFETY AUDIT

Conducting a road safety audit is extremely beneficial as it ensures that the current safety and accessibility standards are incorporated during the conceptual and design stages for all new road facilities. This will assist in reducing the possibility of accidents both during and post construction, ensuring pedestrian accessibility and safety, and minimising the potential of legal action from developers, contractors, designers, planners and authorities.

Contact us to discuss your project.

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