

## SMARTER Board Member Participates in State Motorcycle Safety Program Assessment

Dr. Donald L. Green, Vice Chairperson of the SMARTER Board, was selected to participate in a state assessment and serve as a subject matter expert for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) state assessment program. This program is part of the Highway Safety Grant Program, enabling states to implement effective highway safety initiatives. Dr Green shared with the SMARTER Board that the experience was enlightening, providing valuable insights into the intricate and complex systems related to Motorcycle Rider Education and the NHTSA Uniform Guidelines for State Highway Safety Programs: Highway Safety Program Guideline #3—Motorcycle Safety.

States can request an NHTSA assessment, which supports State Highway Safety Offices, state Emergency Medical Services (EMS) offices, and other state agencies. The process involves a team of non-federal subject matter experts conducting a comprehensive and independent review of highway safety program areas using a structured, objective approach and well-defined procedures that:

- Provide an overview of the program's current status.
- Identify the program's strengths and weaknesses; and
- Offer recommendations for improvement.

In this instance, a state sought an external review of its motorcycle safety program area and received guidance for its next steps. The process begins with informal pre-assessment activities, followed by several meetings where discussions occur regarding the program's status and efforts. It then culminates in a formal report and briefing to highlight the program's status and recommendations for the future.

States interested in obtaining an external assessment can contact their NHTSA Regional Office to discuss the possibility of hosting a program review. It is essential to understand that NHTSA does not influence the evaluation and serves only as a conduit to facilitate the process as part of the program.

States must plan for the assessments required to meet grant requirements. All assessments must be requested by May 1 each year (at least 14 months before the corresponding grant application deadline). This strategy enables NHTSA to collaborate with the state on an appropriate assessment schedule, likely after October 1.