

# Alsafe

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## Safety Planning Tools for Alabama MPOs

presented by  
**Cambridge Systematics, Inc.**

**Elizabeth Wemple, P.E.**



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October 21, 2015

# Research overview

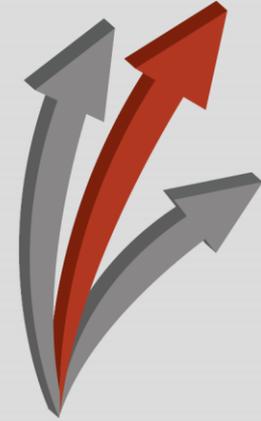
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**Project Objectives**



**Project Outcomes**



**Next Steps**

# Project Team

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Alabama DOT

Tim Barnett

University of Alabama, Huntsville

Mike Anderson

Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

Beth Wemple (*Portland, OR*)

Joe Fish (*Denver, CO*)

Srinath Ravulaparthi (*Oakland, CA*)

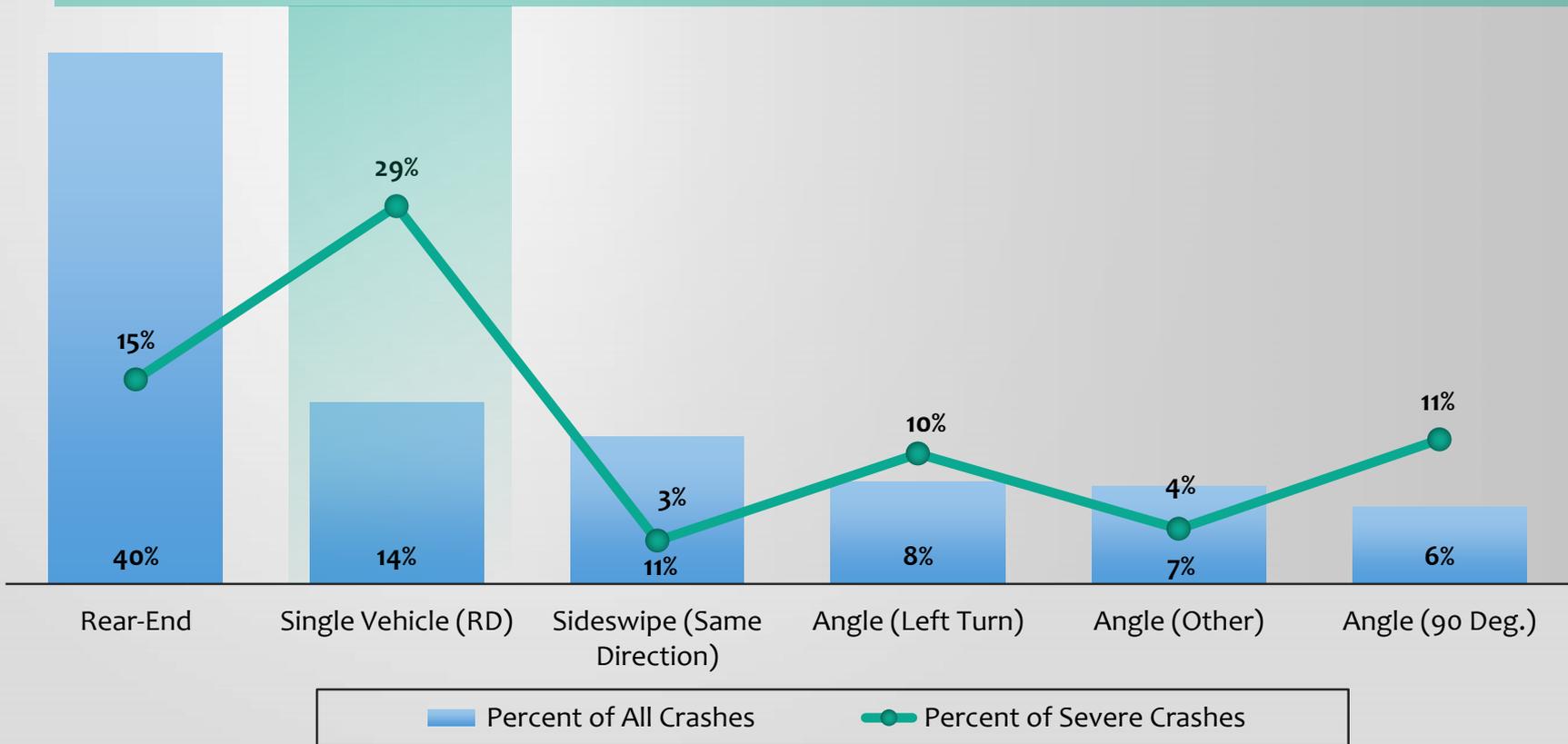
Brent Selby (*Oakland, CA*)



# Identifying and Evaluating Problems

Short-Range Safety Planning

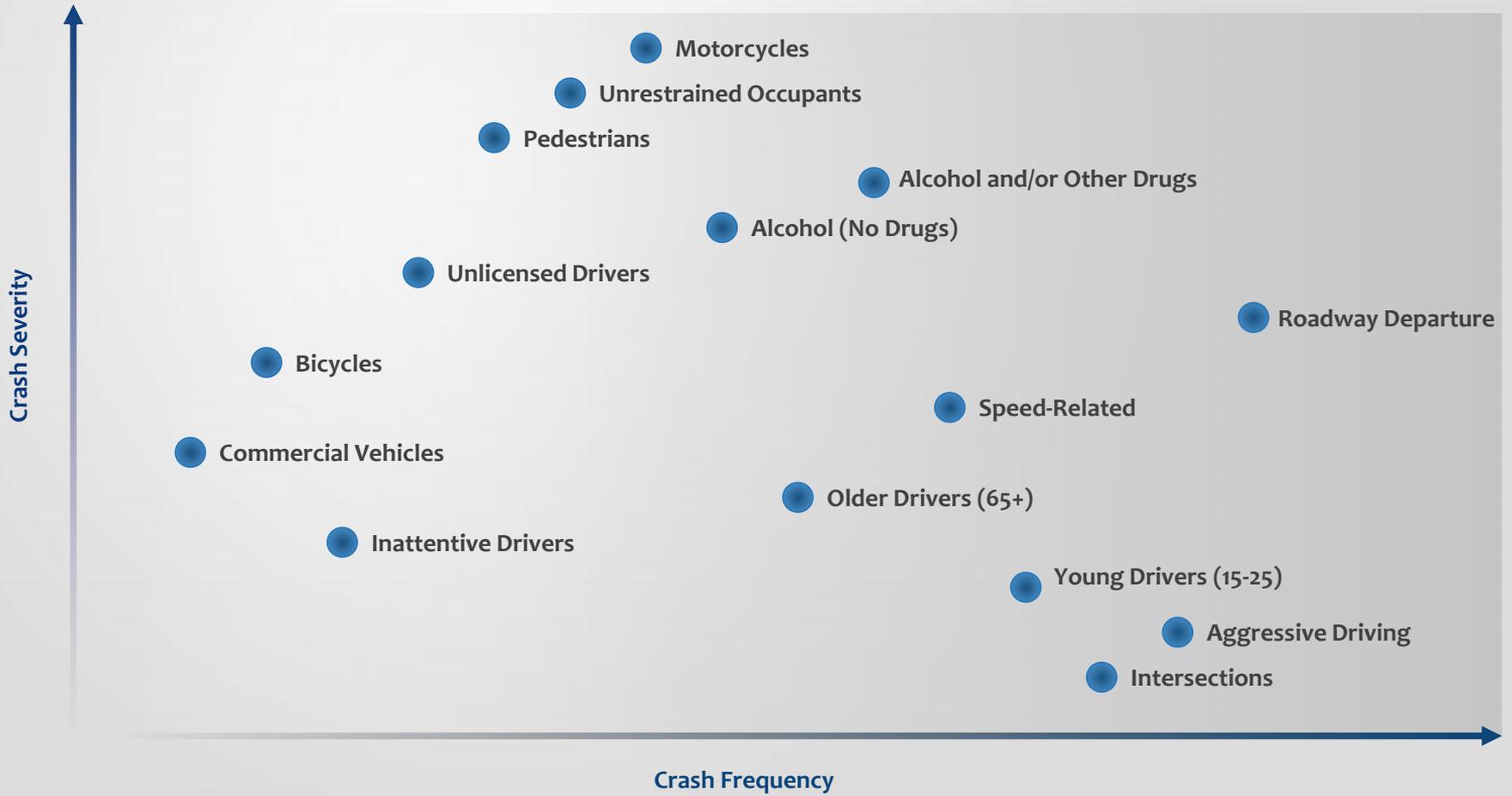
Single-vehicle roadway departure crashes are over-represented among severe crashes: they account for 29% of severe crashes compared to only 14% of all crashes



# Focus Crash Types

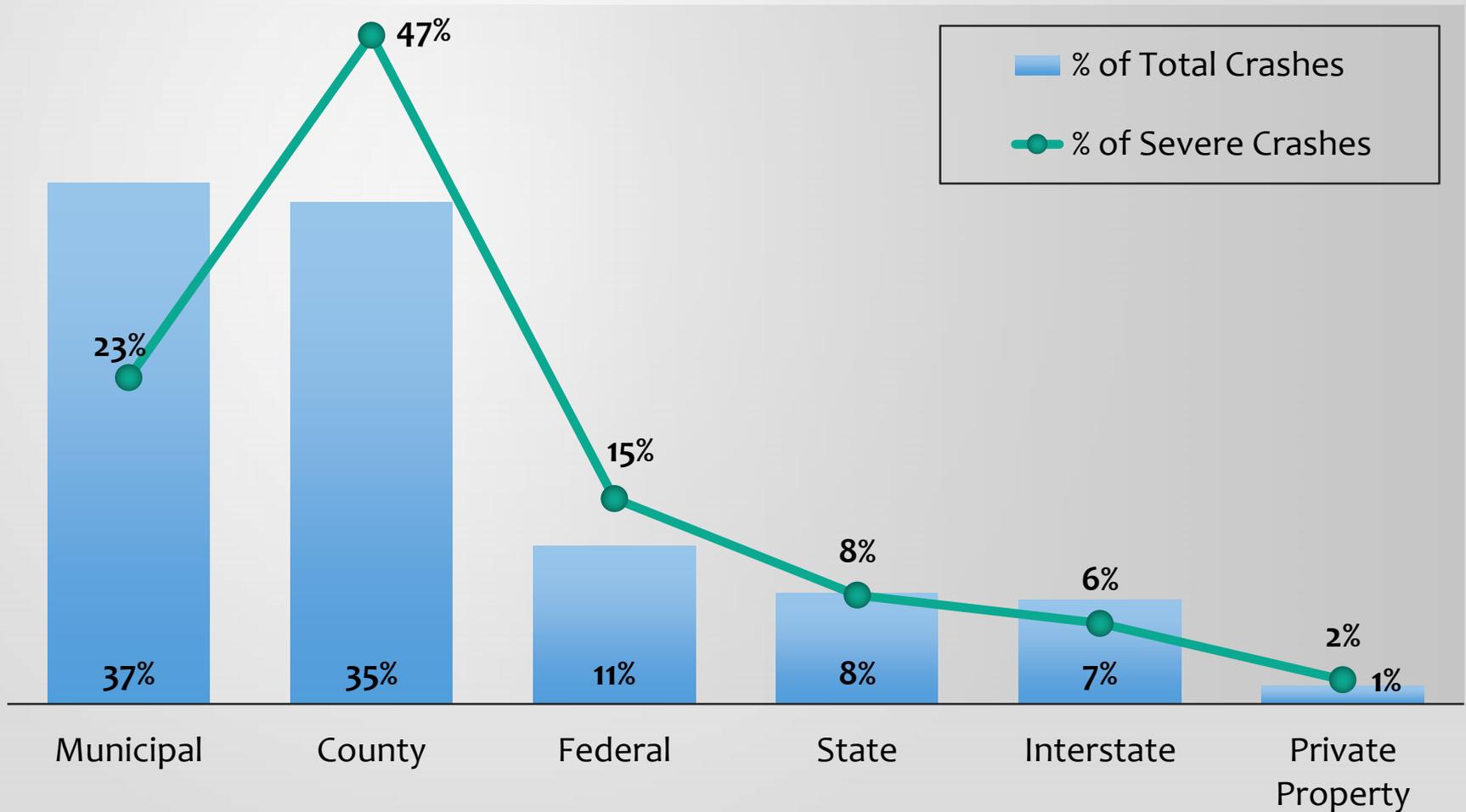
Short-Range Safety Planning

## Frequency and Severity



# Focus Crash Types (continued)

Route Type (Single-Vehicle Roadway Departure Crashes) *Short-Range Safety Planning*



# Short-Term Safety Planning Tool

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Short-Range Safety Planning

- Develop Benchmarks
  - MAP-21
  - How are we doing?
- Evaluate Characteristics
  - 5-Ws
- Identify and Evaluate Focus Crash Types
  - Geographic distribution
  - Risk Factors
  - Type
- Identify and Implement Countermeasures

# Long-Range Safety Planning Tool Overview

Long-Range Safety Planning

## 1. Identify Long-Range Planning Scenarios



## 2. Use Formulas to Predict Crash Impacts of Alternatives



## 3. Evaluate Alternatives



## 4. Prioritize and Implement Projects



# Model Development

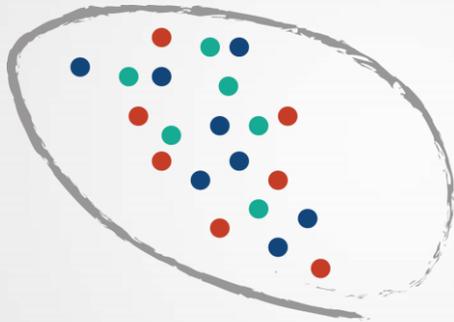
Long-Range Safety Planning

- Literature Review
- Collected/organized variables for Huntsville MPO area
- Variables tested

- ✓ Roadway mileage (by type)
- ✓ VMT (by roadway type)
- ✓ V/C ratio (by roadway type)
- ✓ Speed
- ✓ Number of lanes
- ✓ Intersection and signal density
- ✓ Percent of population male
- ✓ Retail and nonretail employment density
- ✓ Median household income
- ✓ Student enrollment

# Technical Process Overview

Long-Range Safety Planning



Collect



Organize



Predict

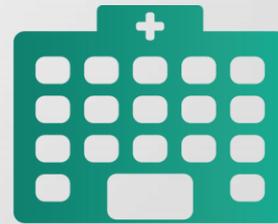


Evaluate

# Model Development (continued)

Long-Range Safety Planning

$$\mu = e^{(\alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots)}$$



# Sensitivity of Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes to Changes in Input Variables

Long-Range Safety Planning

Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes (Base Prediction = 1,138)		Primary Road VMT	Posted Speed	Secondary Road Miles	Local Road Miles	Average Number of Lanes	Inters. Den.	Number of Signals	Male Pop. Percent	Non-Retail Emp. Density
Average		4,119	34	0.41	10	3	110	0.79	50	901
Percent Change in Input Variable and Crash Outcome	-25%	-3%	-30%	-6%	-12%	10%	-3%	-4%	-12%	0%
	-10%	-1%	-12%	-3%	-5%	4%	-1%	-2%	-5%	0%
	10%	1%	13%	3%	6%	-4%	1%	2%	5%	0%
	25%	3%	32%	7%	16%	-9%	3%	4%	14%	0%

Key Predictor Variables:  
Posted speed, local roadway mileage, male population

# How to Use Models

Long-Range Safety Planning

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1							<b>Baseline Crashes (2010-2012)</b>	<b>Predicted Crashes (3-yr. period)</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Change in Cost of Crashes</b>
2	<b>Total Crashes</b>						<b>29,478</b>	<b>29,199</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>	<b>\$ (7,092,380)</b>
3	<b>Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes</b>						<b>1,138</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>\$ 15,551,186</b>
4	<b>Injury Crashes</b>						<b>3,925</b>	<b>4,077</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>\$ 14,750,342</b>
5	<b>Property Damage Only Crashes</b>						<b>24,988</b>	<b>24,698</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>	<b>\$ (3,848,940)</b>
6										

	TAZ	Total VMT	Primary Road	Local Road	Highway V/	Primary Road	Local Road	Speed (log)	Primary Road Mileage	Secondary Road Mileage	Local Road	Average Number of Lanes (HPM)	Intersection	Number of Crashes
9														
11	1	4522.5	0.0	3616.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	4.6	0.0	0.0	1.3	4.3	263.7	5.2
12	2	5463.1	0.0	3673.5	0.0	0.0	0.4	4.5	0.0	0.0	1.1	4.2	448.2	6.0
13	3	8492.7	0.0	9232.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	6.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	5.2	520.1	2.3
14	4	8978.2	0.0	10996.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	5.3	0.0	0.0	2.7	7.1	701.5	2.6
15	5	2579.1	0.0	4495.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.8	8.8	309.5	0.9
16	6	52200.0	2575.2	5114.4	0.9	0.0	0.1	4.7	0.0	0.7	1.3	5.9	297.6	2.5
17	7	1311.1	0.0	1861.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	8.0	873.9	0.0

# What MPOs Thought

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- Short-range process is familiar – yet cautious to apply
- Long-range process looks valuable
  - Quantitatively consider safety as a prioritization factor
  - Comfortable with the relative comparison
  - Push the tool to influence investments
- Application
  - Less data is easier
  - Simpler tool is easier

