



The Institute of Transportation Engineers
Traffic Engineering Council
presents TIPS on



Citizen Participation

What can a citizen do to help reduce traffic accidents?

A primary goal of any traffic engineer is to make our roadways as safe as possible. The public plays an important role in achieving that goal. Road users, whether they are driving, walking or cycling, are our eyes in the street.



Citizens can do their part to help reduce the high cost of traffic crashes by taking the following actions:

- **Drive Carefully** - Concentrate on driving and use seat belts; do not speed or drink while driving.
- **Don't Take Chances** - Play it safe. Drivers should not try to "beat the light" or "beat the train" at railroad crossings. Drive defensively at all times.
- **Report Roadway Hazards** as soon as possible to city, county or state officials responsible for road maintenance and safety. Roadway hazards that should be reported are:
 - . Traffic signs down or damaged.
 - . Traffic signal malfunctions.
 - . Traffic signs obstructed by vegetation.
 - . Street lights that are burned out.
 - . Shoulder washouts.
 - . Obstructions, potholes, bumps or dips in roadway.
 - . Water ponding on roadway.
- **Property Owners Should Keep Vegetation Trimmed** to ensure that good intersection and driveway sight distances are provided and that traffic control signs and signals are visible.

- **Report Acts of Vandalism** to law enforcement, traffic engineering and maintenance officials.
- **Support Traffic Safety Officials** to ensure that they have adequate budgets for staff, equipment and supplies to do their jobs properly.
- **Turn on Vehicle Headlights** between dusk and dawn and anytime visibility is reduced by rain, smoke, fog, etc.
- **Keep Vehicles in Good Mechanical Condition** by regularly checking brakes, tires, wipers and other safety equipment.
- **Obey Traffic Control Devices** such as signs, signals and pavement markings. These devices were installed to enhance safety.