

Data-Driven Road Design and Policy Decisions Based on Traffic Safety Considerations: Case Studies

Dr. Sunanda Dissanayake, Ph.D., P.E., F. ASCE

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About the Talk:

Economic costs due to highway crashes across the world are enormous, with no apparent improvement in sight. The number of fatalities due to motor vehicle crashes are at unacceptable levels making it a priority among transportation professionals. Therefore, road design and policy decisions related to transportation system needs to be made by considering the safety aspect as well, in addition to other important considerations. This talk will present several case studies where safety analyses were conducted based on crash and other data which would eventually lead to road design and even policy decisions. The information presented will illustrate how research could be implemented in real-world scenarios and brought into practice so that all road users will get benefited.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Sunanda Dissanayake is the Chair and Professor of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept. at Kennesaw State University (KSU). Before joining KSU in the summer of 2021, she was a professor of Civil Engineering and the Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Kansas State University (K-State).

Dr. Dissanayake obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka, a Master of Engineering Degree from the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand, and a Ph.D. from the University of South Florida, after which she joined K-State as an Assistant Professor in 2002. Dr. Dissanayake has taught numerous transportation engineering-related courses at both graduate and undergraduate levels. She has also been the PI and Co-PI of numerous research projects in traffic engineering and highway safety.

Dr. Dissanayake is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, has received the prestigious Fulbright Award for sabbatical leave, and served as a senior scholar for the University of Peradeniya. She has authored/co-authored more than 55 journal papers and presented more than 170 papers at national, international and regional conferences. She has been highly active in several professional societies, member of two journal editorial boards, member of two TRB technical committees, and has been the chair of the Transportation Safety Committee of ASCE/T&DI for more than 10 years.