On average, about 70 people are killed or seriously injured every day in road crashes in the United Kingdom with a value of prevention £36 billion to the British economy. The Road Safety Foundation (RSF), as the voice of EuroRAP in the UK, systematically measures, maps and tracks the safety performance of Britain’s roads. Financial support for risk mapping and performance tracking is provided by Ageas (UK) Limited. RSF also works closely with Highways England and the Department for Transport (DfT) to drive an important focus on road network safety, 3-star or better policy and evidence-based road design and upgrades to save lives and reduce death and serious injury.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Highways England has a policy target for 90% of travel on 3-star or better roads by 2020 on its 6,883km network. It uses the iRAP methodology and results from the survey of its Strategic Road Network to support its road investment strategy.
- The Highways England Strategic Plan 2015-2020 details commitments for multi-billion pound investment in road upgrades across the network. At the operational level, road targets exist for the different classes of roads, to ensure 4 and 5-star smart motorways, 4-star expressways and 3 and 4-star trunk roads at a minimum. Road cross section designs are being developed to meet the star rating targets, thereby delivering a system-wide change in design standards.
- In 2016, DfT allocated a £175 million Safer Roads Fund to tackle a portfolio of the 50 most dangerous local A roads in England.
- The proactive iRAP approach is being embedded into local authority practice. The RAC Foundation pathfinder project enabled 8 local authorities to survey, star rate and develop Safer Road Investment Plans (SRIPs) for 11 high risk A-road sections.
- Following on from the Pathfinder Project, a further 39 roads were inspected and Star Rated. 75 local road safety engineers have been trained and User Defined Investment Plans (UDIPs) developed for submission to DfT’s Safer Roads Fund for implementation from 2017/18 through to 2020/21. A number have already commissioned additional surveys.
- In 2017, RSF and Ageas released the 2017 risk mapping and performance tracking report “Cutting the Cost of Dangerous Roads”. It showed that, with advanced technology and targeted investment on the UK’s most persistently dangerous A-roads, roads can be fixed before harm occurs.
- RSF also launched the Road Crash Index, an online interactive showing the safety performance, cost of injury road crashes, and risk maps for each county. The interactive helps the public give MPs the ammunition they need to take action and support road safety investment.

The RSF’s 2017 Risk Mapping & Performance Tracking Report and interactive Road Crash Index, coupled with the Benchmarking Highways England Report are important road safety policy, investment and advocacy guides.

Britain is an exemplar of effective and powerful road safety partnerships saving lives and preventing serious injuries.
SAVING LIVES INTO THE FUTURE

- The persistently dangerous A-roads have now been inspected, remedial proposals prepared and the first findings will be reported this year.
- Focus on the local economic cost of road crashes has attracted the attention of central funding agencies looking to maximize the scale and return on road safety investment across the UK.
- Highways England has commissioned several pieces of research to support iRAP’s continuous improvement of its methodology, has tested future road designs against iRAP’s 3-star minimum and looks likely to re-survey its roads in the years ahead.

TIMELINE FOR SUCCESS

- 2012: RSF and Ageas enter partnership to enhance annual risk mapping and performance tracking of the British road network
- 2015: Highways England releases Strategic Business Plan 2015-2020 and policy target for 90% of travel on 3-star or better roads by 2020
- 2016: DfT announcement of £175m Safer Roads Fund
  - RSF releases “Making Road Travel as Safe as Rail and Air” Report
- 2017: Assessment carried out on 50 most dangerous local authority A roads in England and preparation of remedial proposals
  - RSF releases “Cutting the Cost of Dangerous Roads” Report and the Road Crash Index
- 2018: Release of the 2017 local authority assessment results and planned upgrades

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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RSF, in partnership with Ageas (UK) Limited, systematically measures, maps and tracks the safety performance of Britain’s roads. This 2017-released map shows the statistical risk of death or serious injury occurring on Britain’s motorway and A road network for 2013-2015. Covering 44,500km in total, the British EuroRAP network represents just 10% of Britain’s road network but carries 57% of the traffic and half of Britain’s road fatalities.