

Training Course for Road Safety Auditors

7 - 10 July 2009



Centre for
Automotive Safety Research



in conjunction with



Government of South Australia
Department for Transport,
Energy and Infrastructure

A course designed to produce trained Road Safety Auditors in line with the national guidelines for accreditation of Road Safety Auditors

Bonython Jubilee Building
Room BJ3-16
University of South Australia
City East Campus
North Terrace Adelaide

Overview

'Prevention is better than cure' is a widely accepted principle that has taken root in the application of road safety audit to road design and traffic engineering, involving checking the design of new roads and road improvement projects for primary safety. Road safety audit is an essential and integral part of the general process of continuous safety monitoring aimed at ensuring the provision of maximum levels of safety for all road users. The particular role of road safety audit is to minimise the potential for future accident problems by anticipating them and thereby initiating pro-active measures that prevent the problem from emerging – 'get it right the first time'.

AUSTROADS defines road safety audit as 'a formal examination of an existing or future road or traffic project, or any project which interacts with road users, in which an independent, qualified examiner reports on the project's accident potential and safety performance'. The earlier in the design process that a road safety audit occurs, the more likely that an effective influence on safety in the project can be attained. The AUSTROADS road safety audit process recognises this principle and offers a five stage audit process which emphasises early intervention.

Road safety audit is conducted by independent, qualified auditors, usually working in teams, who submit written audit reports through a formal management process. Written responses by project managers then follow as part of this process.

The training of suitably qualified auditors is therefore an essential part of the process of road safety audit.

National guidelines for the formal accreditation of road safety auditors were developed at the Road Safety Audit Summit held in Adelaide in May 1997. These guidelines are:

- (a) five years (minimum) relevant experience in road design, traffic engineering, road safety engineering or other closely related road safety discipline;
- (b) successful completion of a road safety audit training course, approved and recognised by a State Road Authority;
- (c) participation in at least five road safety audits under the guidance/leadership of a Senior Auditor, of which at least three must be design stage audits, and another must be a Stage 4 or 5 Audit, and
- (d) certify maintenance of knowledge and experience by participating in at least one audit per annum.

To be listed as a road safety auditor, one is required to satisfy points (a) and (b) above. Listing as a Senior Road Safety Auditor requires one to satisfy points (a), (b) and (c) above. Both levels of auditor will be required to satisfy (d) in order to remain on the list of accredited auditors.

The course outlined in this brochure is recognised by Transport SA and therefore satisfies point (b) above. Individuals who successfully complete the course will have completed two of the required audits under point (c).

Course participants need to have suitable experience and qualifications as indicated under point (a) above, or be close to attaining that experience.

Places in the course are strictly limited, to maximise the opportunities for participants to gain deep understanding and insight into road safety audit, and to allow full opportunity for active participation in the workshop activities.

The course presenters

The principal presenters for the course are Professor Michael Taylor, Dr Wen Long Yue and Dr Jeremy Woolley.

Professor Taylor is Professor of Transport Planning and Director in the Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technologies (ISST) at the University of South Australia. He has a long career of research, teaching and consulting in transport engineering. He was a key developer of the original (1996-97) road safety audit courses for Transport SA.

Dr Yue (ISST-TS) and Dr Woolley (Centre for Automotive Safety Research, University of Adelaide) have substantial reputations as both road safety researchers and road safety auditors.

Other presenters will assist with specialised topics within the course. These will include practising road safety auditors, legal experts, and traffic and highway engineers. The course aims at a balance between principles, practice and future development in road safety audit, and to this end involves the right people to deliver and supervise each aspect of the course program.

Active participation in the whole course by each registrant is sought, and thus registrants themselves play vital roles in the course delivery, as part of an intensive adult learning experience.

