

Assessing potential impacts of safety measures proposed by the Accident Investigation Board of Norway

TØI Report 1935/2023 • Author: Rune Elvik • Oslo 2023 • 17 pages

The Road Safety Inspectorate of Norway is mandated to evaluate the effects of safety measures proposed by the Accident Investigation Board of Norway. This report describes how these evaluations can be performed and gives examples of evaluations. The main topics are how well the safety measures have been implemented and what their effects on accidents could be.

Each year The Accident Investigation Board of Norway conducts in-depth studies of a sample of fatal or serious injury accident in road traffic in Norway. The reports from these studies usually contain recommendations for one or more safety measures to be implemented in order to reduce the probability of similar accidents in the future. Starting in September 2021, the Road Safety Inspectorate has had the task of evaluating the recommendations' impacts on road safety. This report describes a method for performing these evaluations.

It is not feasible to perform full evaluations of all road safety measures proposed by the Accident Investigation Board. Simpler studies, denoted as assessments of effects, are proposed. These assessments are based on current knowledge and aim to answer two main questions:

1. Have the recommended safety measures been implemented?
2. What are the likely impacts on accidents or injured road users of the recommended safety measures?

Five examples of assessments are given. Four were made by the Institute of Transport Economics; the fifth by the Road safety Inspectorate. Results are either qualitative, partly quantified or fully quantitative. A qualitative result states that road safety is likely to be improved, but does not quantify the improvement. A partly quantitative result will state either the number of accidents that can be influenced, or the percentage reduction in relevant accidents, but not both. A fully quantitative result will state both the number of accidents that can be influenced and the expected reduction in this number.