



To: Transport Planning

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Subject: Essential Evidence on a page: No. 177 Knowledge Translation for evidence-informed road safety

Top line: There are significant future road safety gains to be made by more effective use of Knowledge Translation & Exchange (KTE) through improved policy and practice.

The general aim of KTE is to promote effective and efficient policies, practices and research investments by reducing the gap between what we know and do. KTE has gained attention over recent years as part of the increasing global emphasis on evidence practice. KTE offers the road safety community a mechanism to address current and future challenges by facilitating collaborative learning and coordinated actions among diverse stakeholders to promote evidence-informed policies and practices.

A commonly referenced definition of KTE adapted for road safety as follows: KTE for road safety is a dynamic and iterative process that involves the co-production, synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically sound application of knowledge to improve the safety of road users. However, with a small number of exceptions, KTE has been infrequently examined in the road safety literature and is largely neglected by transport policy agencies. Considering the millions of deaths and injuries caused by road trauma each year, KTE has a critical role for enabling effective policy and practice, and the impending transformation of the road safety field over coming decade. A study aimed to generate a framework to enhance KTE in road safety and encourage evidence-informed policy and practice, identifying KTE facilitators.¹

Table 1 The enhanced KTE framework for road safety

KTE domains	KTE facilitators	
	Essential	Aspirational
▶ Research funding and production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A coordinated research plan that promotes strong evidence, establishes priorities equitably, encourages stakeholder collaboration and fosters a capable research workforce. ▶ Adequate incentivisation for broad research dissemination within funding contracts (eg part of all research grants having to be used for KTE activities). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A specialised national road safety research institute that leads research production and KTE activities.
The research expertise of knowledge users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Senior policy managers with postgraduate research training. ▶ Professional development courses for policymakers and practitioners to increase research and evaluation skills (eg short research and evaluation courses delivered by external consultants). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A professional academy for road safety practitioners to increase their capacity to capture and share tacit and experiential knowledge.
Research dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Dissemination training for researchers. ▶ Journals, reports and newsletters. ▶ Conferences and government-facilitated multistakeholder forums at national and jurisdictional levels. ▶ Working groups. ▶ News and social media. ▶ NGO boards and membership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Comprehensive online knowledge portals with peer-reviewed research syntheses on priority topics, to increase the accessibility of road safety knowledge.

Potential impacts of facilitators in each KTE domain include at the organisational level increased prioritisation of KTE by research organisations, stronger research and evaluation cultures in policy and practitioner agencies and greater diffusion of research evidence with research, policy and practitioner organisations. At the system level we are likely see increased co-production of research, as well as enhanced capture and mobilisation of practitioner knowledge to strengthen the road safety evidence-base, as well as increased transfer of research evidence to all stakeholders, including the public and better diffusion of knowledge throughout the road safety community through multi-stakeholder networks.

¹ Hinchcliff, R. Senserrick, T., Travaglia, J. et al, 2017 The enhanced knowledge translation and exchange framework for road safety: a brief report on its development and potential impacts, *Injury Prevention*, 23: 114-1217.