



Community Traffic Safety Awards Program

2026 Application

AAA Northeast's Community Traffic Safety Awards recognize accomplishments in improving local traffic safety for all road users. We reward communities with Bronze, Silver and Gold awards based on the application criteria. Please include information on how your community employs a holistic approach to traffic safety through collaboration between law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, schools, the senior community, injury prevention coalitions and other municipal agencies.

AAA works in partnership with the National Roadway Safety Strategy, which outlines the major actions we take to make a meaningful difference in enhancing safety culture in our communities. Central to this strategy is the **Safe System Approach**, which focuses on five key objectives:

Safer People: Encourage safe, responsible behavior by people who use our roads and create conditions that prioritize the ability to reach their destination unharmed.

Safer Roads: Design roadway environments to mitigate human mistakes and account for injury tolerances, encourage safer behaviors and facilitate safe travel by the most vulnerable users.

Safer Vehicles: Expand the availability of vehicle systems and features that help prevent crashes and minimize the impact of crashes for both occupants and non-occupants.

Safer Speeds: Promote safer speeds in all roadway environments through a combination of roadway design, targeted education, and outreach campaigns and enforcement.

Post-Crash Care: Enhance the survivability of crashes through expedient access to emergency medical care, while creating a safe working environment for vital first responders. Prevent secondary crashes through robust traffic incident management practices.

Roadway safety is a shared responsibility that includes not only those who enforce traffic laws, but those who educate motorists, cyclists and pedestrians; those who build and maintain roads; and those who develop and manufacture motor vehicles.

This shared responsibility involves the efforts and resources of federal, state and local agencies, as well as community partners and citizens. We look forward to recognizing the work of your community in implementing these objectives, and thank you for your interest in our awards program.

Learn more about the **National Safety Roadway Strategy**.



General Instructions

- Applications must be received by **September 4, 2026**.
- Please use information/data for the year **2025**.
- Instructions and point values for each of the categories are included for your information.
- Applications can be completed electronically and emailed to the contact listed below for each state.

CONNECTICUT

Please email application to:
Adelle Zoher / Lauren Fabrizi
azoher@aaanortheast.com
lfabrizi@aaanortheast.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Please email application to:
Christina Hayman
chayman@aaanortheast.com

NEW JERSEY

Please email application to:
Shani Jarvis
sjarvis@aaanortheast.com

NEW YORK

Please email application to:
Barbara Ward
bward@aaanortheast.com

NEW YORK (Utica area)

Please email application to:
Patti Artessa / Janet Brown
pkuepper-Artessa@aaanortheast.com
jbrown@aaanortheast.com

RHODE ISLAND

Please email application to:
Ritchell Chery
rchery@aaanortheast.com

Community Information

Please designate a person who will be responsible for working with AAA to facilitate the community's participation in this program.

Community name:	Population:
Contact person:	Title:
Organization:	Telephone:
Address:	Email:
Name/email of chief of police, if different from contact person:	
Name/address of top-elected official:	

(Max 10 points)

CATEGORY 1. Traffic Safety Committee

Community input should be obtained from a Traffic Safety Committee, comprised of individuals who represent various local organizations and modes of travel. Their input can be used to identify traffic safety issues and to formulate solutions. **Participation in a Traffic Officers' Association/Organization meets this criterion.**

Instructions: Check the boxes that apply to your community.

Does your community have a Traffic Safety Committee? (If not, proceed to Category 2.)

Yes ☐ or No ☐

Chairperson name/organization: _____

How often does the committee meet?

Monthly ☐ Every other month (six times a year) ☐ Four times a year ☐

Three times a year ☐ Less often (as needed) ☐

Please list the organizations represented on the committee:

AAA Scoring: A maximum of 10 points will be awarded in this section. 5 points for communities with a Traffic Safety Committee comprised of at least three organizations; 5 points for monthly meetings; 4 points for bimonthly; 3 points for quarterly; 2 points for three times a year; 1 point for less often.

CATEGORY 2. Participation in AAA Traffic Safety Programs (Max 10 points)

AAA offers many programs that help educate the public on safe driving, bicycling, child passenger safety and being a safe pedestrian. AAA encourages communities to take advantage of these programs as a supplement to their own efforts. This category applies to programs you have worked with AAA on.

*Instructions: Check which **AAA Traffic Safety** programs or events in 2025 your community has participated in.*

1. **AAA educational programs/workshops** (school assemblies, senior groups, library programs, etc.) ☐

2. **AAA safety events** (fairs, car seat checks, CarFit events, bike rodeos, pedestrian safety events, AAA Safety Summit, etc.) ☐

3. **AAA School Safety Patrol** ☐ 4. **AAA safety campaigns** (ie. School's Open — Drive Carefully) ☐

5. **AAA traffic safety information distribution** (brochures, social media content, etc.) ☐

AAA Scoring: A maximum of 10 points will be awarded in this section: 2 points for each AAA program you participate in.

CATEGORY 3. Safe System Programs and Projects (Max 75 points)

The Safe System Approach aims to eliminate fatal and serious crashes for all roadway users. Please use the space below to describe your community's holistic efforts to implement the Safe System objectives. Please be as detailed as possible and use additional pages as necessary.

Learn more about the [**Safe System Approach**](#).

AAA Scoring: A maximum of 75 points will be awarded in this section; up to 15 points per category for Safe Road Users, Safe Vehicles, Safe Speeds, Safe Roads and Post-Crash Care initiatives, based on the description of the program or project. **Be as detailed as possible and cite specific examples; use extra pages if necessary.**

Safer People (Up to 15 points)

Examples include:

- Conducted educational programs for schools, senior groups, libraries, etc. on traffic safety topics
- Used traditional or social media to promote traffic safety topics

Safer Vehicles (Up to 15 points)

Examples include:

- Conducted commercial vehicle inspections
- Conducted vehicle recall checks
- Conducted child safety seat checks

Safer Speeds (Up to 15 points)

Examples include:

- Use of crash/speed data to target enforcement
- Awareness campaigns to promote safe speeds
- Reduced speed limits in targeted areas

Safer Roads (Up to 15 points)

Examples include:

- Engineering efforts to promote traffic calming and increase safety for all road users (dedicated bike/pedestrian lane, curb cutouts, medians, rumble strips, adaptive traffic controls, etc.)

Post-Crash Care (Up to 15 points)

Examples include:

- *Methods employed to reduce emergency response/wait times*
- *On-scene safety for law enforcement*

CATEGORY 4.

(Max. 20 points)

New Programs and Initiatives

Describe any new innovative or unique programs/initiatives regarding traffic safety that may have also addressed diverse groups. How has your department built new relationships or expanded existing relationships with the communities you serve?

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- *Considering improved accessibility when re-engineering intersections (ramps, audio alerts, and/or braille for people with visual/hearing impairments, etc.).*
- *Developing new community-based outreach programs to reach diverse groups.*
- *Hiring officers that speak the languages used within your community.*

Instructions: Reproduce this page and complete for each NEW program for 2025. Attach documentation, including photos, if applicable. Be sure to include the traffic issue addressed, your solution/program and how you have evaluated it.

Name of program or project: _____

Describe your program or project; explain the issue, how the program/project addressed it and how it is evaluated.

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CATEGORY 5A. AAA Traffic Safety Hero Award *(Optional)*

This award is designed to recognize members of law enforcement. The AAA Traffic Safety Hero Award is given by AAA Northeast to an individual, separately from the department awards.

Examples include:

- Officer Jones created a permanent child safety seat education program for parents and caregivers.
- Lieutenant Smith spearheaded traffic safety initiatives that positively impacted traffic safety in the community.

Previous recipients of this award are not eligible for submission.

Name/Title of nominee: _____

Department:

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CATEGORY 5B. AAA Community Traffic Safety Hero Award *(Optional)*

This award is designed to recognize community members outside of law enforcement. The AAA Community Traffic Safety Hero should be a civilian (i.e. crossing guard or traffic safety advocate). The AAA Community Traffic Safety Hero Award is given by AAA Northeast to an individual, separately from the department awards.

Examples include:

- *John and Jane Smith advocated for a crosswalk/light timing change to increase safety at a dangerous intersection.*
- *The youth advisory group at a local high school advocated for passage of a new law.*

Previous recipients of this award are not eligible for submission.

Name/Title of nominee: _____

Department:

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Thank you for your participation. We applaud your efforts to keep your community safe!