TRAFFICLOGIX
NTICC 2022
Safety on Reservation Roads

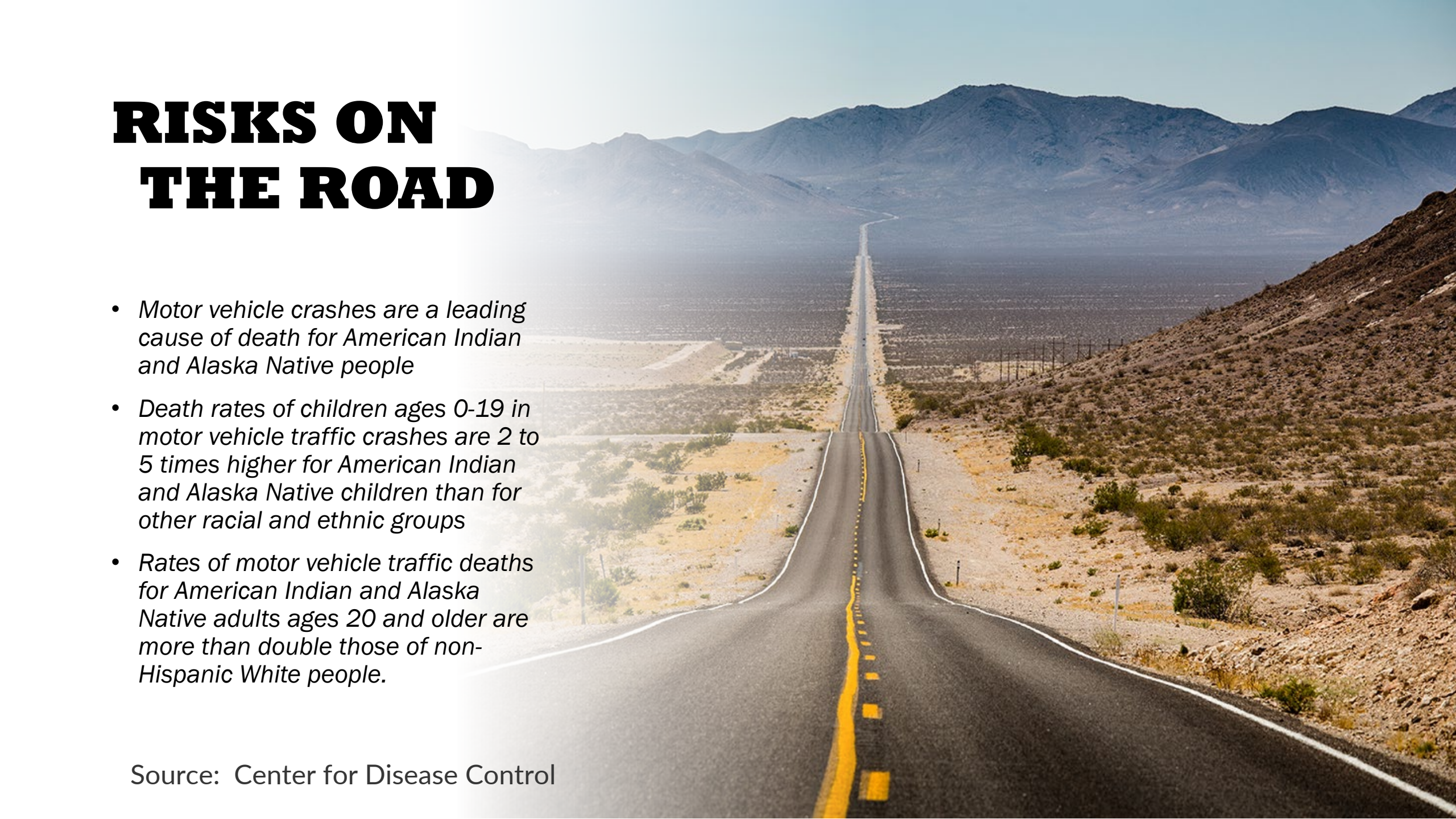
OVERVIEW

- The challenges of tribal roads
- Preventing collisions and fatalities
- What solutions make sense?
- Cost efficiency and funding

THE DANGER OF TRIBAL ROADS

Fatal crashes on tribal roads are increasing year after year, even in years when general U.S. roads saw a decline in fatal crashes.

RISKS ON THE ROAD



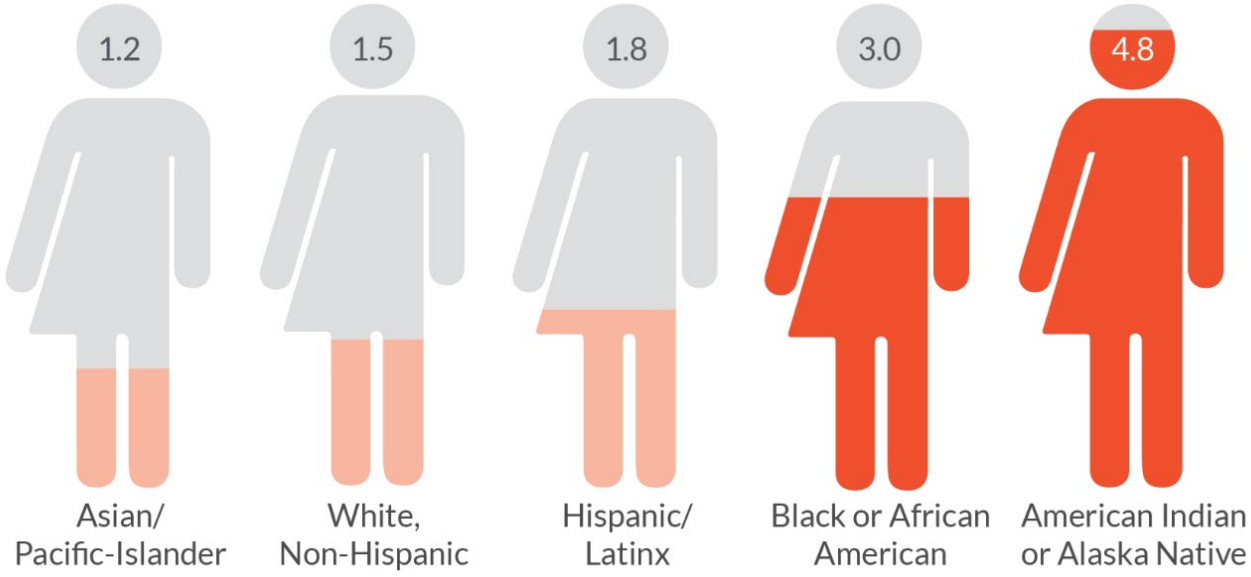
- *Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native people*
- *Death rates of children ages 0-19 in motor vehicle traffic crashes are 2 to 5 times higher for American Indian and Alaska Native children than for other racial and ethnic groups*
- *Rates of motor vehicle traffic deaths for American Indian and Alaska Native adults ages 20 and older are more than double those of non-Hispanic White people.*

Source: Center for Disease Control

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

People of color, particularly Native and Black Americans, are more likely to die while walking than any other race or ethnic group

Pedestrian deaths per 100,000 by race & ethnicity (2016-2020)



Source: https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design

TRIBAL FATALITIES AFTER DARK

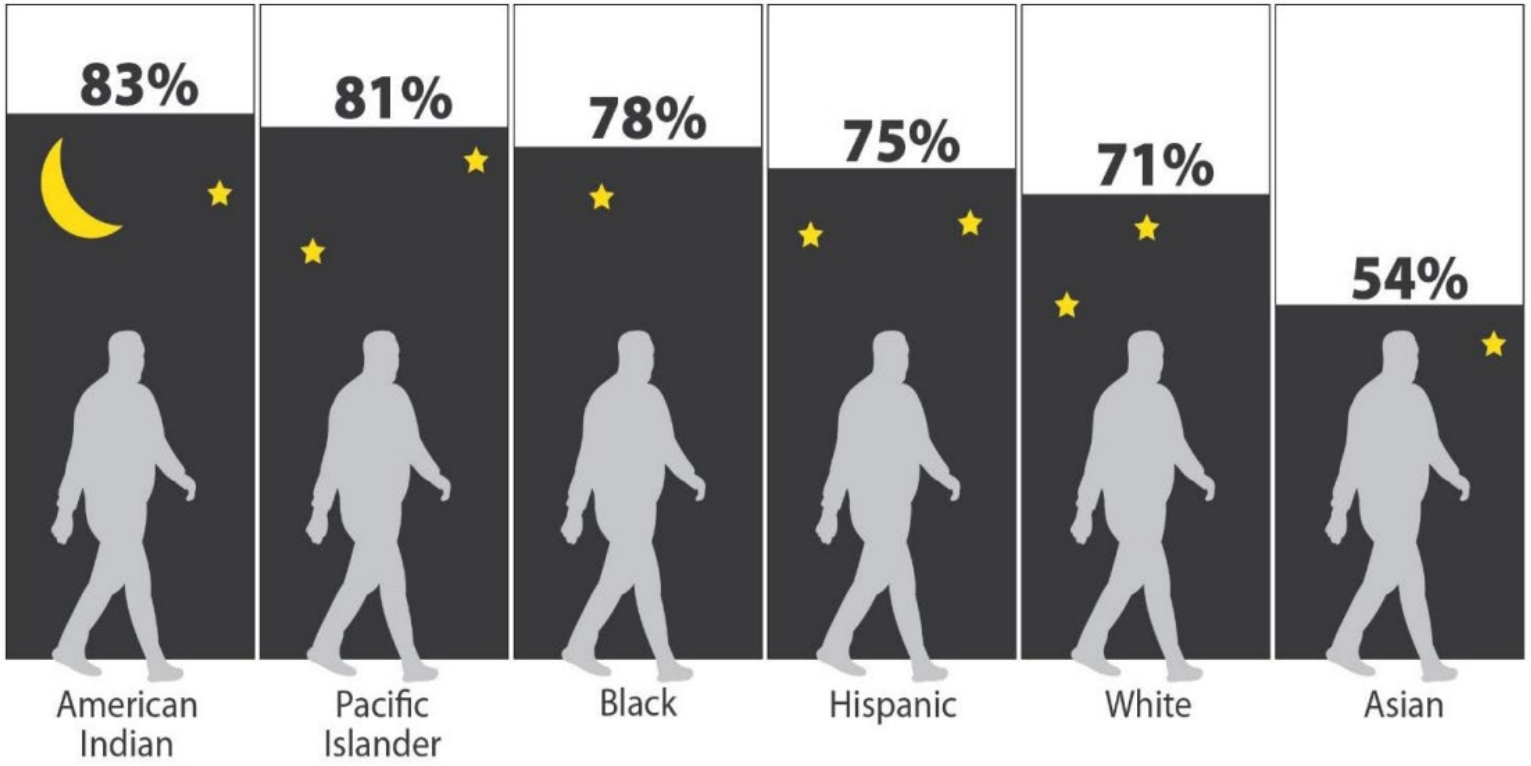


Figure 4. Graphic. Percentage of pedestrian fatalities in dark conditions by race (2008–2018). Source: NHTSA.

Source:

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WHY ARE TRIBAL ROADS SO UNSAFE?

The lack of safety on tribal roads has often been attributed to:

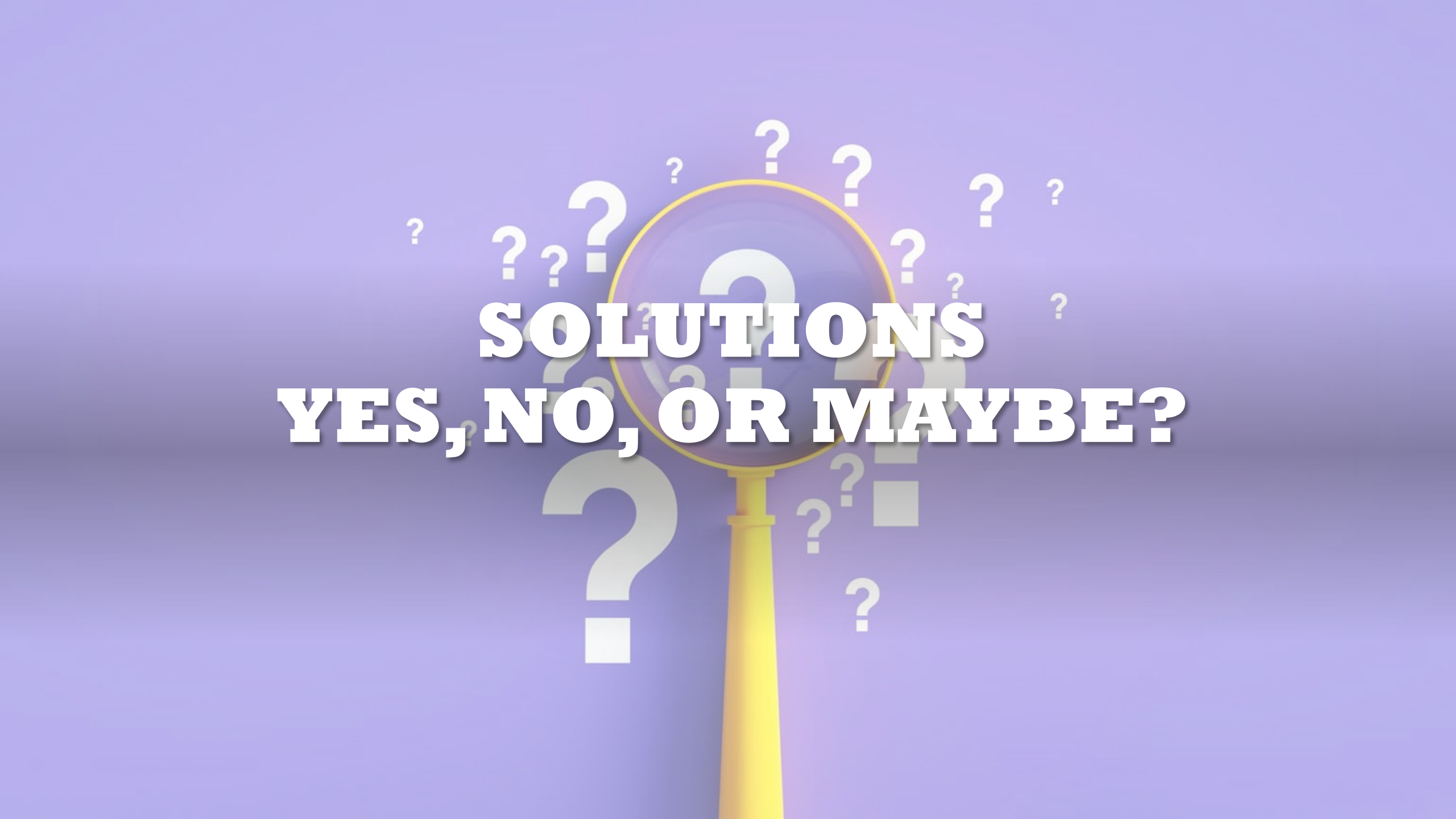
- *Lack of resources*
- *Lack of coordination*
- *Rural nature of roads*
- *Lack of crash data to help implement effective safety improvement programs*

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT TRAFFIC COLLISIONS?

- *Most fatalities and injuries caused by car crashes are avoidable*
- *You can protect your roads and engage drivers so you prevent crashes before they happen*

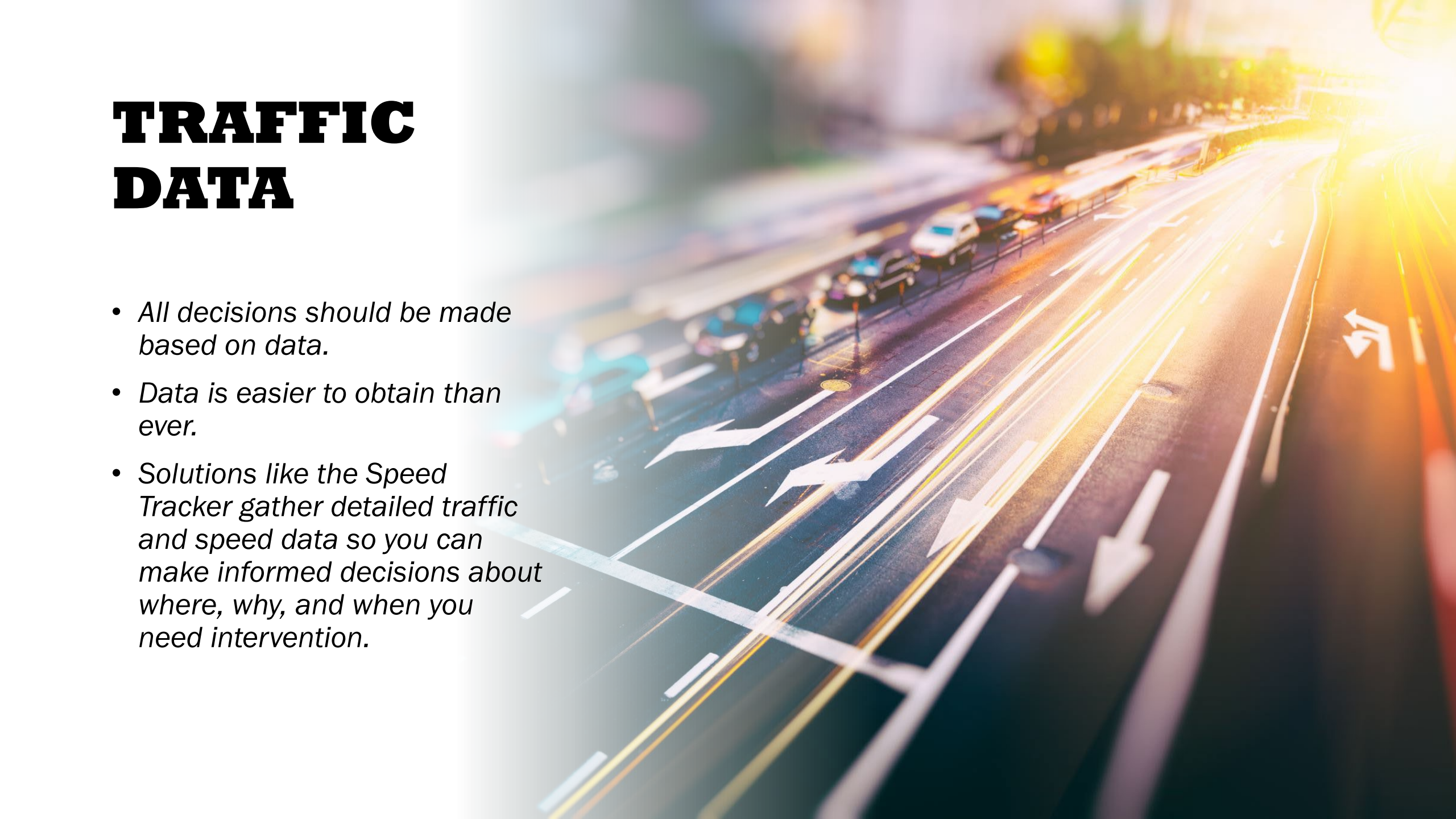
WHERE DO WE START?

- *First, you need to assess what your road's challenges are and the severity and frequency of concerns so you can find the best solutions.*
- *Secondly, you need to analyze the efficacy and viability of different interventions.*


SOLUTIONS
YES, NO, OR MAYBE?

TRAFFIC DATA

- *All decisions should be made based on data.*
- *Data is easier to obtain than ever.*
- *Solutions like the Speed Tracker gather detailed traffic and speed data so you can make informed decisions about where, why, and when you need intervention.*



INCREASED SIGNAGE

While often perceived to be a good way to slow cars down, signs are often ignored and can even confuse drivers.

LOWER SPEED LIMITS

- *If drivers are already ignoring speed limits, lowering them further just encourages them to disregard them completely.*
- *Lower speed limits can also make pedestrians careless*

INTERACTIVE DIGITAL SIGNAGE

- *Engage drivers in the feedback loop- when they see information about their behavior without a penalty, they almost always change that behavior and slow down*
- *Digits and strobe can flash to warn speeders*
- *Custom messaging can warn drivers who speed to slow down and can even give positive reinforcement to safe drivers*
- *Include data so tribes can learn more about how drivers behave on their streets and make better informed decisions about enforcement*

SPEED AWARENESS CAMERAS

- *Capture images of speeding vehicles license plates*
- *Can be used with digital signs or as standalone solution*
- *Can mail warnings to drivers and choose whether to penalize them*
- *Enhance awareness of speed limits and encourage compliance*
- *Learn where speeding is happening and target enforcement where it's needed most*

PHYSICAL TRAFFIC CALMING SOLUTIONS

- *Compel drivers to slow down in order to drive over*
- *Available in unlimited sizes and configurations*
- *Easy to install and remove*
- *Available as emergency friendly cushions for primary response routes*

WHAT IS THE IDEAL SOLUTION?

- *No one size fits all, every road is unique.*
- *Ideal solution combines traffic data, awareness solutions, and targeted enforcement*

COST EFFICIENCY

- There are two main factors to consider when choosing how you'll protect your roads.
  - What solutions can you budget for since traffic calming products are available in a wide range of prices and features?
  - What funding can you procure to help you pay for traffic calming solutions?

HOW DO WE SECURE GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO PROTECT OUR ROADS?

There are many funding streams specifically available to reservations looking to improve safety on their roads.

The Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF) is one example that offers funding to help tribes protect their roads, develop safety plans, and improve infrastructure.

The anticipated maximum funding available for upcoming years is

- up to $23,138,400 for FY 2022;
- up to $23,598,400 for FY 2023;
- up to $24,098,400 for FY 2024;
- up to $24,518,400 for FY 2025; and
- up to $25,118,400 for FY 2026.

Find out more about how to apply for this grant as well as other opportunities to fund safer tribal roads at

www.tribalsafety.org/funding