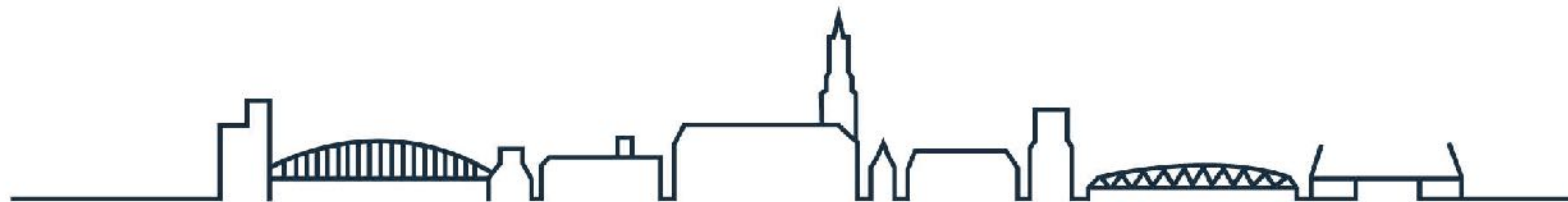


# EMERGENCY STREETS:

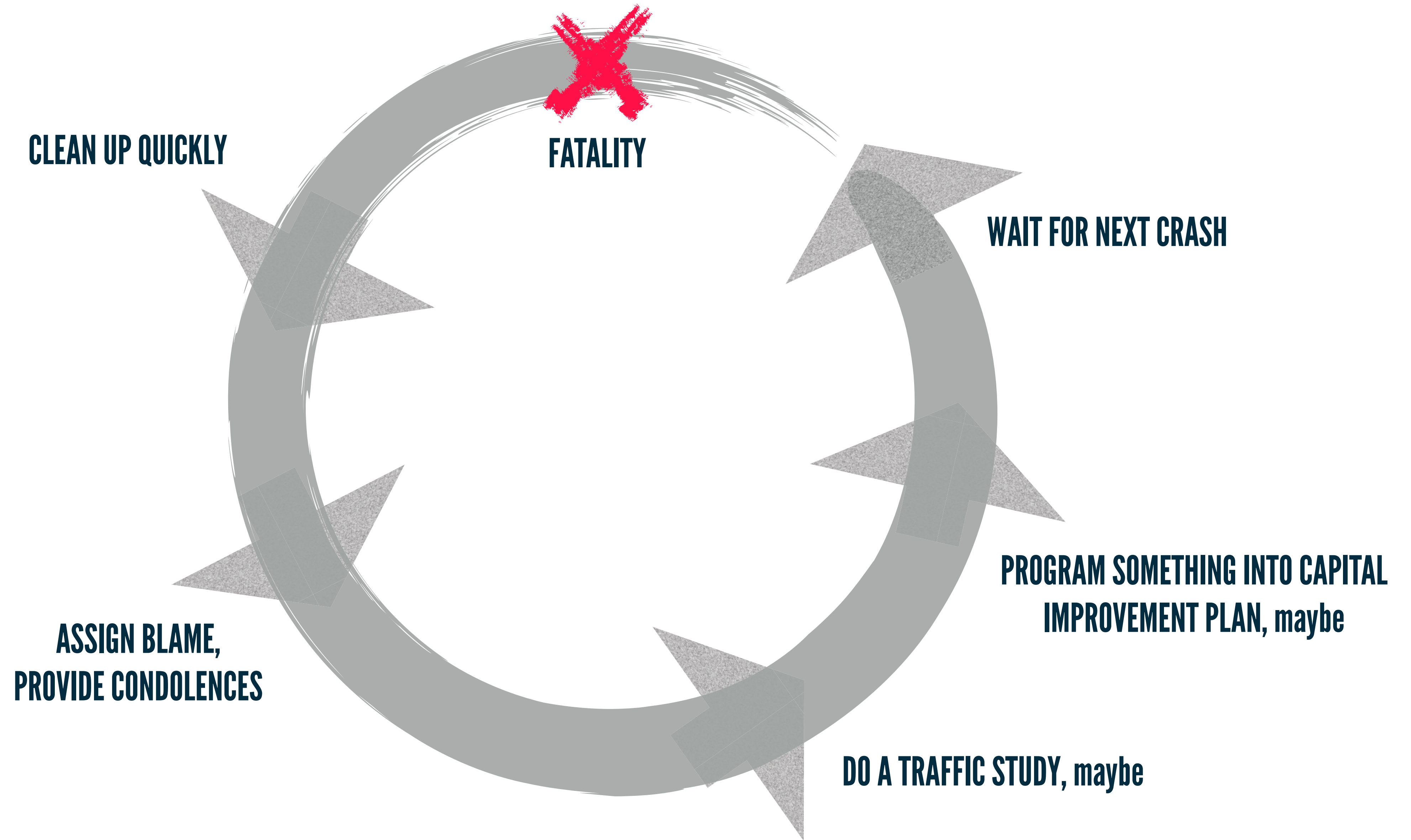
## TACKLING SOCIETAL DESENSITIZATION TO TRAFFIC VIOLENCE & REFORMING RESPONSE STRATEGIES



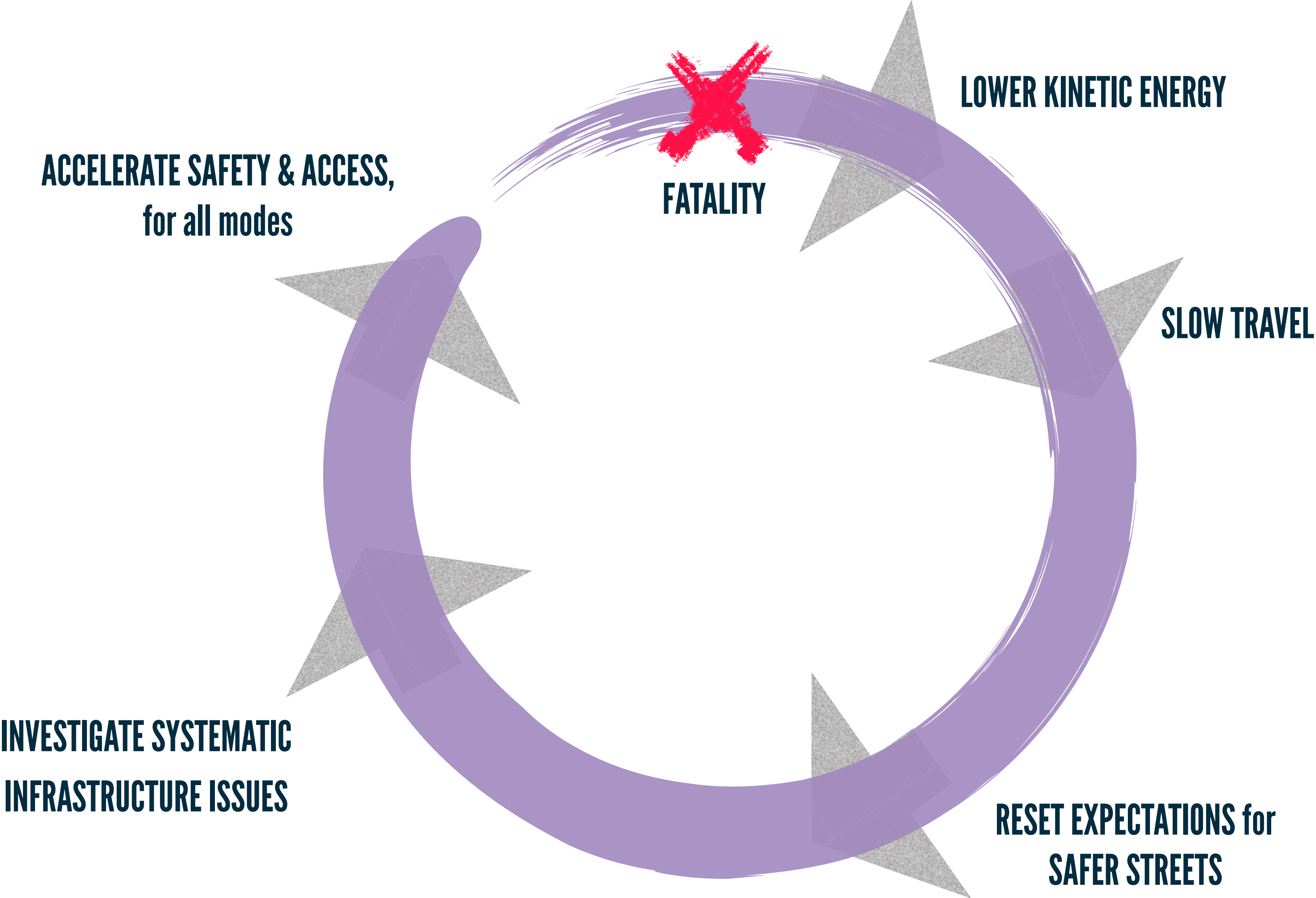
SPOKANE, 15-16 DECEMBER 2025

[www.emergencystreets.org](http://www.emergencystreets.org)

# 'DO NOTHING' FEEDBACK LOOP FOR A 'FAILURE' IN THE SYSTEM



# POSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE FEEDBACK





Home

## Reports

# Emergency Streets Addressing the Public Health Emergency on US Streets & Roadways

Public

Deposited

Analytics

**Citeable URL:** <https://scholar.colorado.edu/concern/reports/9g54xk375>

### Abstract

Traffic violence is outstripping local, regional, and federal efforts to reduce injuries and deaths. Governmental responses to the crisis have failed to stem the tide of death on our roadways. What can and should government agencies do? This paper describes a countermeasure known as “Emergency Streets,” which reacts to a demonstrated transport system failure with a compulsory, corrective response: all motor vehicle drivers in the vicinity must slow down for a period of time before being allowed to resume regular driving. A standardized response to fatal crashes like Emergency Streets can help sidestep some of the existing bureaucratic and cultural barriers to slower, safer driving, without compromising other public priorities.

Creator

WTRB paper  
25 December 2023

#### Emergency Streets

Addressing the Public Health Emergency on US Streets & Roadways

Title Evidence  
Issue: 1.1.1.1.1.1

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## ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS

- ACTION WITHIN 48 HRS OF CRASH
- TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES TO REDUCE KINETIC ENERGY
- SIGNAGE (E.G., FATAL CRASH AREA)
- INSTALLATION FOR 2 WEEK (MINIMUM)

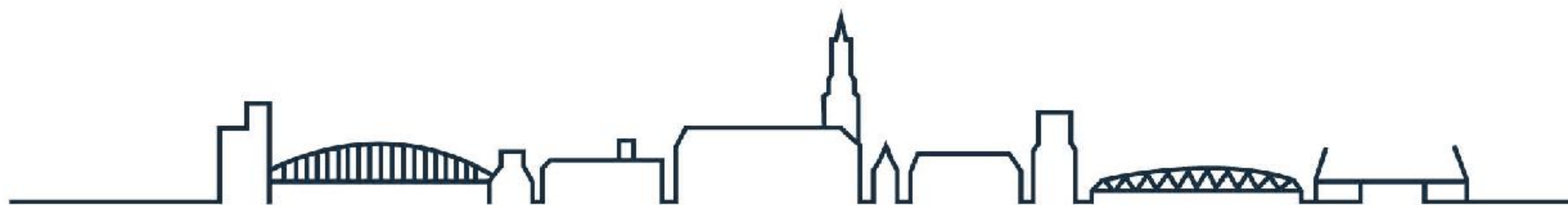
## HEIGHTENED IMPACT COMPONENTS

- ROBUST COMMUNICATION PLATFORM
- INVESTIGATIVE “ADD-ON”
- DECLARED “REFORM” TO SIGNAL NEW (DIFFERENT) PLANNING POLICIES
- RAINBOW BRIDGE

# EMERGENCY STREETS WORKSHOPS IN THE PAST YEAR

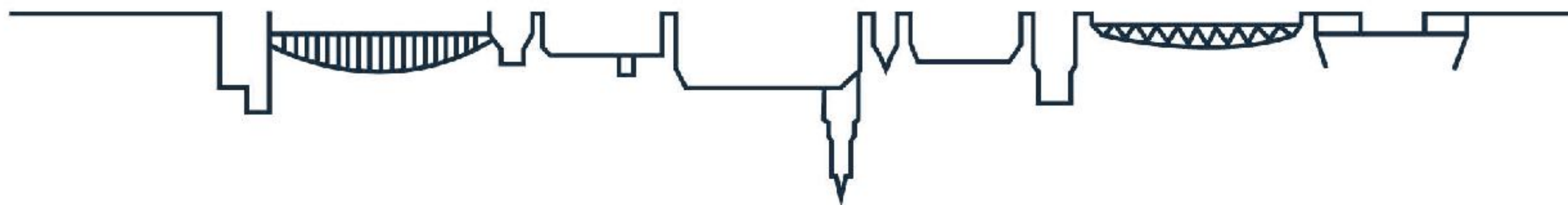






**HOW CAN TEMPORARY INFRASTRUCTURE EFFECTIVELY PROMPT USERS TO SLOW DOWN  
ON OUR EXISTING ROAD NETWORK?**

**WHAT CAN HELP PUBLIC AGENCIES GET USED TO USING THESE TOOLS?  
WHAT STRATEGIES CAN YOU OFFER TO OVERCOME KEY CHALLENGES?**







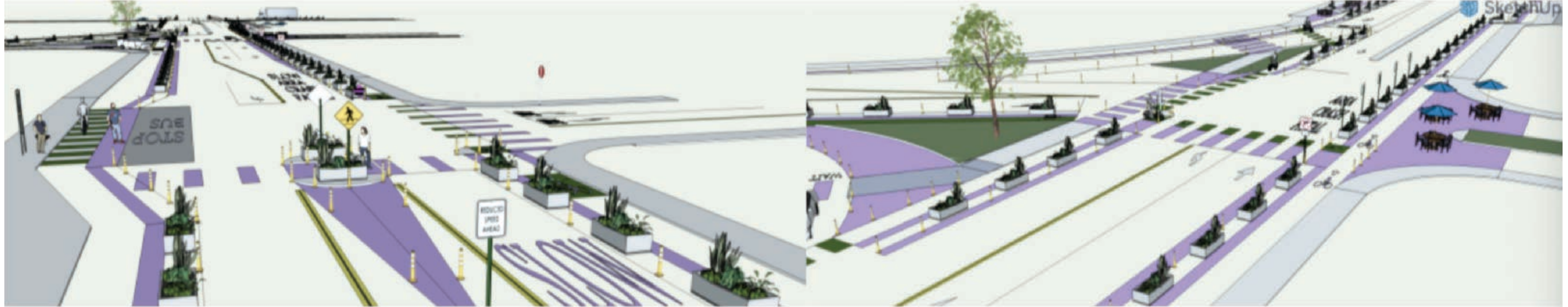
Why

Guide ↓

FAQs

Team

Contribute



Emergency Streets is a rapid, visible response to fatal traffic crashes. Within 48 hours, cities install temporary traffic-calming tools—using speed humps, bollards, and signs—to slow cars by about 20 mph and signal the road is under investigation. These two-week installations treat crashes as public health emergencies, providing communities an opportunity to instill change about how crashes are addressed and to uncover root causes. The message is clear: preventable deaths demand meaningful action.

Traffic violence is outstripping local, regional, and federal efforts to reduce injuries and deaths. Despite a renewed awareness of the issue in traffic planning circles, people are being killed on America's roadways in mounting numbers—about 40,000 people every year—comparable to other public health crises such as gun suicides, drug overdoses, and the height of the AIDS epidemic.

Except: we have no crash prevention hotline. There's no NARCAN for traffic deaths. There is no race for a





















**CHANGE THE PARADIGM:**

**MOVE BEYOND SHORT-TERM 'FIXES'**

**ADDRESS ROOT OF THE PROBLEM**

**ACTUATE EVIDENCE, SHOWING MEANINGFUL CHANGE CAN HAPPEN QUICKLY**

