



## Reducing suicide risk on the strategic road network

09/05/24

# Content warning



- Suicide is a sensitive subject that you may find difficult.
- Feel free to step away if you need a break.

**SAMARITANS**

If you are having thoughts about taking your life, it's important to tell someone.

Free help and support is available right now if you need it. You don't have to struggle with difficult feelings alone.

Samaritans – for everyone, 24 hours a day, every day    Call: 116 123

# Introduction to National Highways

National Highways manages the strategic road network (SRN) in England, comprising of motorways and some A roads known as All Purpose Trunk Roads (APTR).

The SRN carries  
**3x**  
more people than the  
rail network

**4 MILLION**  
journeys are made on the  
SRN everyday




Each  
**£1**  
invested in the SRN delivers more than  
**£2**  
in benefits to the economy

- The SRN Comprises**
- **10,000** miles of carriageways
  - **20,000** bridges and other structures
  - **100,000** street lights
  - **150,000** signs
  - **3,500** electronic messaging signs
  - **70,000** sensors, including traffic sensors
  - **4,300** miles of motorway and major A road

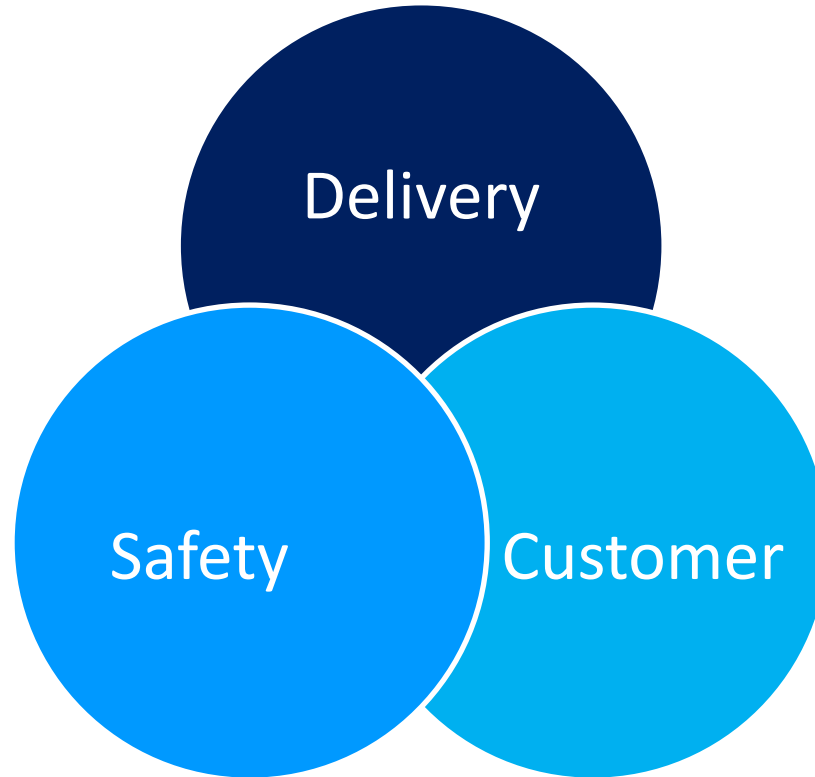


**21%** forecast increase in the  
usage of the SRN over  
the next 20 years



2000 2020 2040

# National Highways key imperatives

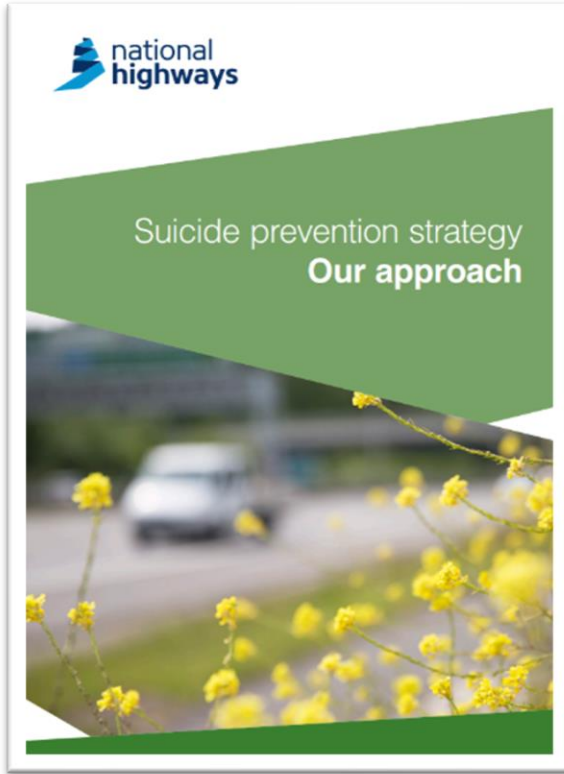


# Background info - Suicides on the SRN

- **Road/structures as a method for suicide**
  - Easily accessible
  - Perceived lethality
  - Familiarity and personal connection
- **The scale of the issue**
  - 50-60 suicides per year on the SRN
- **Impact on road users and communities**
  - Average delay on network for a suicide is 5-6 hours
  - Average cost of suicide approximately £1.67 million



# National Highways - Suicide Prevention Strategy



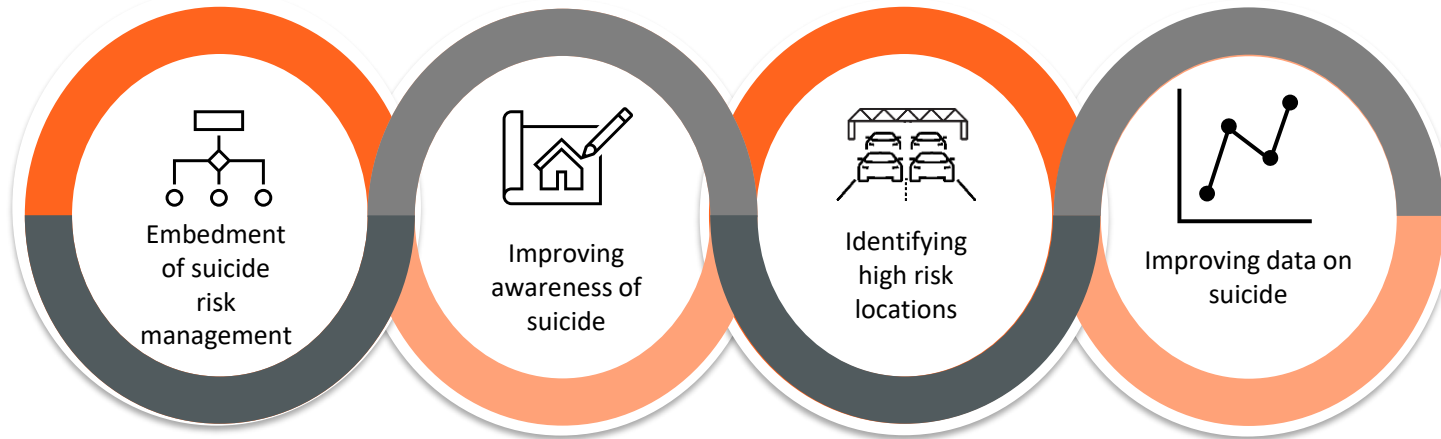
- National Highways Suicide Prevention Strategy was launched in 2017
- Suicide is not inevitable, it is preventable.
- Seeking for no-one to attempt to take their life on the SRN

# National Highways - Suicide Prevention Work

- Early work on suicide largely reactive
- Retrofitting assets with suicide mitigations takes time and significant investment
- Seeking to apply learnings about high frequency locations
- Looking to adopt a risk-based approach



# TRL work with National Highways



Bringing together our multi-disciplinary expertise, TRL have undertaken a number of projects with National Highways to proactively reduce the risk of suicide on the Strategic Road Network.



# Industry suicide prevention standard

## Embedment of suicide risk management



TRANSPORT  
SCOTLAND  
CÔMHDAIL ALBA



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Department for  
**Infrastructure**  
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

# Roads and bridges suicide prevention guidance

## Improving awareness of suicide

**Module 1:**  
Background

**Module 2:** Changing the way suicide is thought and spoken about

**Module 3:** Road and bridge related suicide

**Module 4:** Location and design-based suicide risk factors

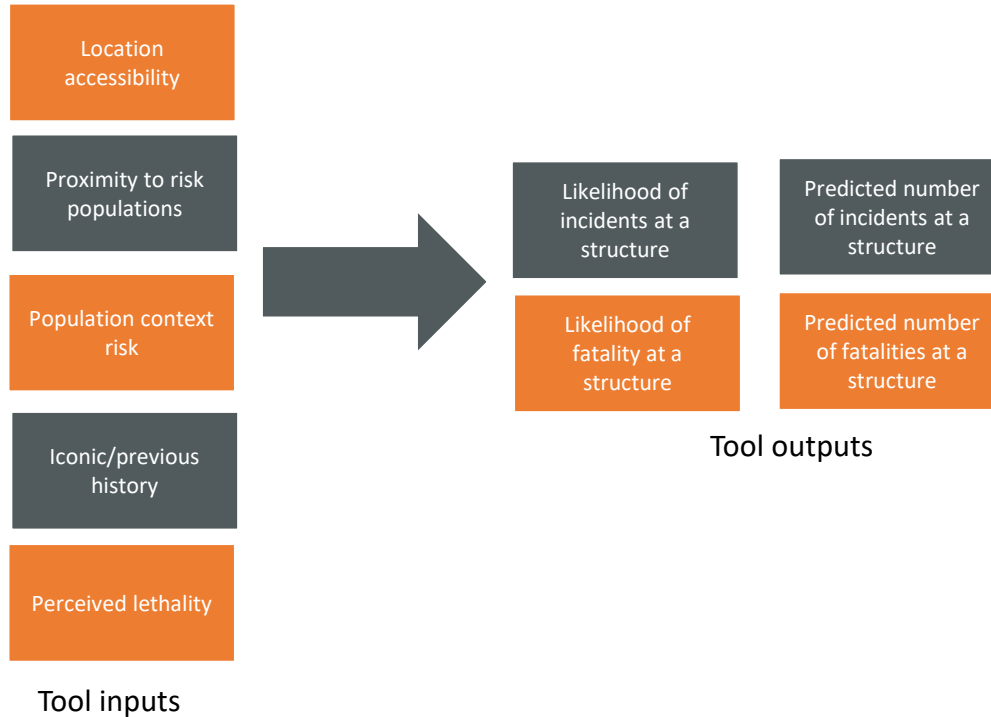
**Module 5:** Opportunities to reduce risk – suicide prevention measures

**Module 6:** Support services

**Module 7:** Further learning and resources

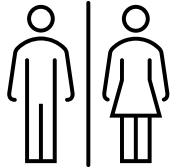
**Module 8:** Contact details

## Identifying high risk locations



# Suicide prevention database

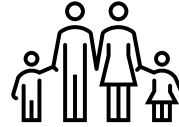
## Improving data collection and analysis of suicide incidents



Demographics



Transport/access to infrastructure



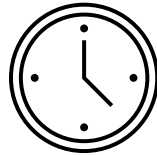
Living arrangements



Contact with police/social services



Health



Time of incident



Suicide method



Suicide note



**Thank you for listening**

**Roseline Walker**

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