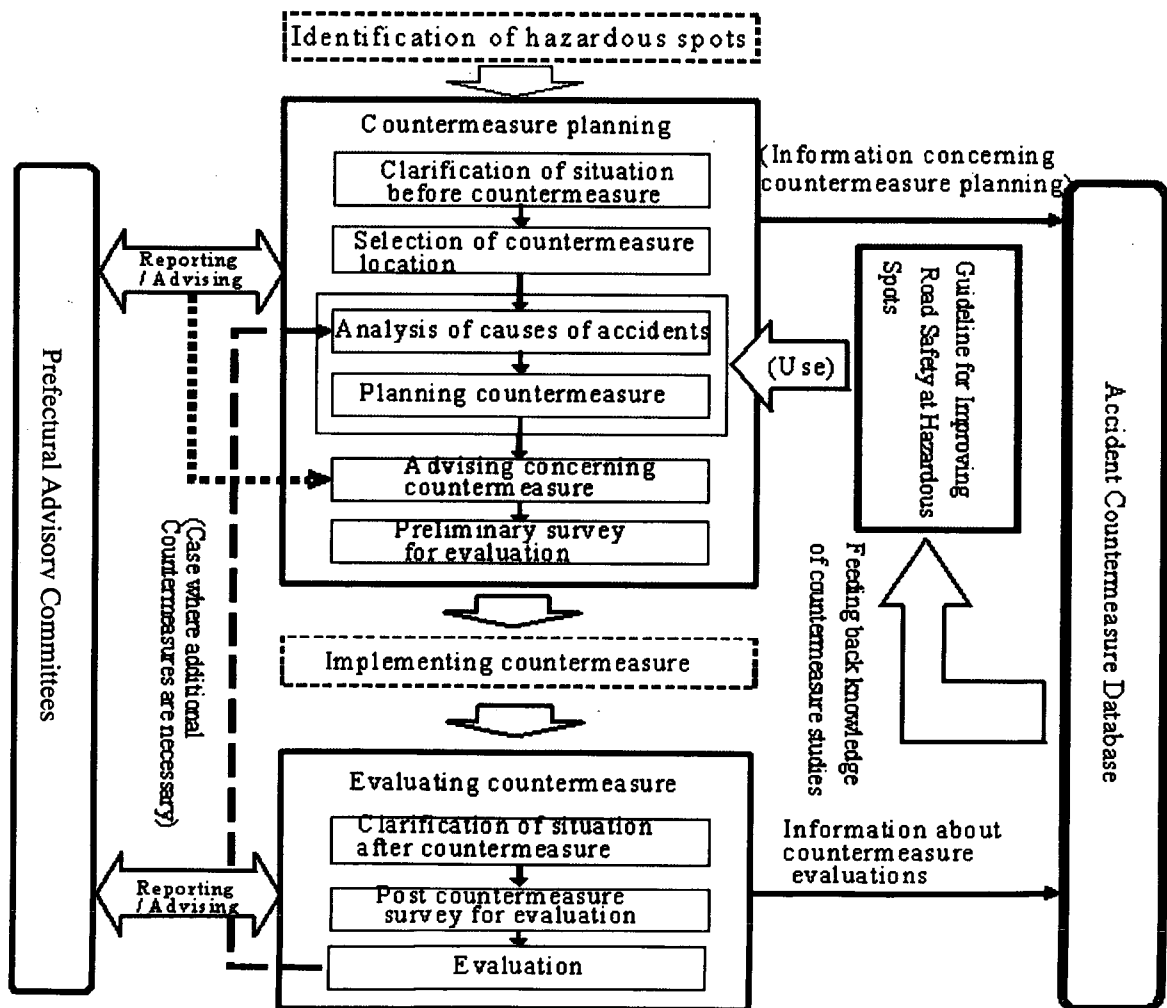


Chapter 2 Steps Relating to the Countermeasures ¹⁾

To improve the effectiveness of traffic safety countermeasures and the efficiency of projects, it is important to plan countermeasures based on accurate analysis of accident causes. It is also important to build data and knowledge through these processes, in order to accurately assess the effect of the countermeasures taken, examine whether additional countermeasures are required, and feed back the knowledge gained from the assessment to the planning of future countermeasures.

For improving the effectiveness of countermeasures to be taken at candidate sites and the efficiency of projects, this manual includes Fig. 2.1, which shows the steps from planning and assessment of the countermeasures to the storage of data in the database, and provides general information about each process.



(Note 1) This chapter is extracted from the “Manual for Traffic Accident Prevention Countermeasures and Assessment” (pp. 3-5, September 2004, Traffic Bureau of the National Police Agency and Road Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport).

(1) Planning of the Countermeasures

[1] Analysis of present conditions before the countermeasures are taken

Information about hazardous spots including road structures, traffic conditions, existing traffic safety facilities and how accidents are occurring should be gathered and analyzed before the countermeasures are taken, in order to understand the present conditions of the sites.

[2] Selection of candidate sites

Candidate sites should be selected from among hazardous spots whose present conditions before the countermeasures are taken were analyzed in [1]; different sites should be selected in each fiscal year to carry out countermeasures.

[3] Analysis of accident causes

Regarding the candidate sites selected in [2], accident causes should be evaluated based on the information about how accidents are occurring analyzed in [1]. Then, site investigation should be taken to check and identify accident causes in the sites.

[4] Planning of the countermeasures

A number of specific policies and countermeasures should be formulated to reduce or remove the accident causes identified in [3]. Then, the actual countermeasures to be taken should be finalized, considering the anticipated effect in preventing traffic accidents.

[5] Advice on the countermeasures to be taken

If necessary, advice from prefectural advisory committees should be reflected when analyzing accident causes and planning the countermeasures.

[6] Prior investigation for assessment

To ensure a comprehensive assessment of the countermeasures, assessment indices should be set up to assess the countermeasures and their effects, and conditions before the countermeasures are taken should be assessed according to the indices.

(2) Assessment of the countermeasures

[1] Analysis of present conditions after the countermeasures are taken

Information about the sites where the countermeasures have been taken including road structures, traffic conditions and how accidents are occurring after the countermeasures are taken as well as general information about the countermeasures taken should be gathered and analyzed in order to assess their effects.

[2] Post-investigation for assessment

The conditions after the countermeasures are taken should be investigated using the same method as that used for prior investigation in order to compare the conditions before and after the countermeasures are taken according to the assessment indices and to assess their effects.

[3] Implementation of assessment

The conditions before and after the countermeasures are taken should be compared using the

data gathered in [1] and [2] to assess their effects.

(3) Storage of data in the database

The data on all processes from the planning to assessment of the countermeasures and information such as examination results should be stored in the accident prevention countermeasures database in order to feed back the results of assessing the sites where the countermeasures were taken and knowledge gained through the assessment into future planning of traffic accident prevention countermeasures, and thus to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the countermeasures.