New insights into road safety

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Road safety in the Netherlands is in the spotlight. The number of road deaths and injuries shows another rise in 2018. We see a more diverse traffic image due to new types of vehicles and distraction is an increasing danger on our roads. A proactive and integrated approach is important to keep a grip on road safety.

Traffic engineering IT agency VIA has commissioned a study by STAR to be able to work in a risk-driven way. STAR is a collaboration between police, insurers and VIA with the aim of improving accident registration and road safety information. An inventory has been made of the factors that influence road safety. We not only looked at accident concentrations, but also at the speeds driven from the point of view of information-driven enforcement.

The result of the research makes it possible to prioritize the routes of the busiest road network in the Netherlands via a national, regional and local top 10 of unsafe routes based on accident and speed score. The research also makes clear that speed is not the biggest problem. Remarkably, on trajectories with a high accident score, where speed is not the biggest problem, there are relatively more casualties. These are primarily the roads with speed limit 50 within built-up areas, followed by 80-roads. The infrastructure in relation to the use of the road is therefore an important factor for road safety on these roads. In addition to informing about road safety and police enforcement at speed, this report has also made it clear where improvements can be made to our road network. The result can be found as an interactive map of the busiest roads in the Netherlands on the STAR website (www.star-traffic-accidents.eu).

Always register all accidents: use MobielSchadeMelden.nl
Good accident rates are crucial to improve road safety. This analysis has been made based on the

available police records. In reality, more accidents occur, both with cars and with cyclists and pedestrians. The goal of STAR is simple: to register all traffic accidents. That is why the initiators want everyone to report accidents via MobielSchadeMelden.nl, in order to inform the insurer in an easy way and to help municipalities, provinces and Rijkswaterstaat increase road safety.