

UTC Project Information	
Project Title	Impact of Rest Area Closures on Fatigue-Related Highway Crashes in Northwest
University	Washington State University
Principal Investigator	Kishor Shrestha
PI Contact Information	kishor.shrestha@wsu.edu
Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	University of Washington PacTrans \$40,00 Washington State University \$ 40,000
Total Project Cost	\$80,000
Agency ID or Contract Number	69A3551747110
Start and End Dates	March 16, 2022-June 30, 2023
Brief Description of Research Project	<p>The main objective of this study is to determine how the State Rest Areas shut down impacted the fatigue-related highway crashes. The project team gathered information on SRA closures, mileage points, Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) of highway section, and highway crashes from states and media outlets. The Washington State Department of Transportation and Idaho Transportation Department provided crash data, and crash information in these two states was correlated with SRA shutdowns. The number of crashes per month and per 10,000 AADT were used to compare crash rates before, during, and after the closure of SRA facilities. The results indicated no significant increase in fatigue-related accidents during the shutdown period. However, total crash rates and fatigue-related crash rates rose in one location, decreased in another location, and no-change in another location during the closure times. Some extant literature showed that fatigue-related events increase during SRA facility closures. The study highlights the importance of SRA facilities in reducing driver fatigue and ensuring safer roads, by shedding light on the correlation between SRA closures and highway crashes. The results may help policymakers create strategies for minimizing accidents caused by weariness and formulate regulations for SRA closures. This research helps improve the safety of American highways for various users by addressing the problem of fatigued driving.</p>

<p>Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)</p> <p>Place Any Photos Here</p>	<p>The results indicated no significant increase in fatigue-related accidents during the shutdown period. However, total crash rates and fatigue-related crash rates rose in one location, decreased in another location, and no-change in another location during the closure times.</p>
<p>Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, or anticipated)</p>	<p>The study highlights the importance of SRA facilities in reducing driver fatigue and ensuring safer roads, by shedding light on the correlation between SRA closures and highway crashes. The results may help policymakers create strategies for minimizing accidents caused by weariness and formulate regulations for SRA closures. This research helps improve the safety of American highways for various users by addressing the problem of fatigued driving.</p>
<p>Web Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports • Project Website 	