



Case Study

Bridging the Gap Between Construction Truck Drivers and Other Road Users: CLOCS-A and Holcim's Truck Ride Along Program

CLOCS-A, Holcim and NRSPP

Key Safety Focus:

Ride Along Program (Pilot)



Transportation is the backbone of our economy, and trucks are the workhorses that keep it moving. Yet, for many road users, these vehicles are seen as an inconvenience or nuisance on the road. Truck drivers are highly skilled professionals who face complex challenges on the road and at construction sites. They must always remain calm and collected, ensuring that their cargo reaches its destination safely and efficiently. Despite their vital role, truck drivers often find themselves at odds with other road users who are unaware of the unique challenges and limitations they face. Many road users lack the knowledge necessary to safely interact with trucks on the road, which is a critical safety risk on our roads. Drivers commonly exhibit unsafe driving behaviours around trucks, such as following too closely, staying in a truck's blind spot, or making abrupt movements or lane changes.

Recognising this critical gap, [CLOCS-A](#) and [NRSPP](#) partnered with [Holcim \(Australia\)](#) to pilot a Truck Ride Along Program. By offering participants the opportunity to ride alongside truck drivers, this program aims to provide a firsthand perspective of the road from a truck's perspective raising awareness of the challenges that truck drivers face on a daily basis. The Truck Ride Along program provides an important avenue for bridging the gap between truck drivers and other road users. This case study will explore how the Truck Ride Along program was implemented and its impact.



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Implementation

To implement the Ride Along program, the CLOCS-A team created a comprehensive Truck Ride Along Booklet that served as a guide for participants. This booklet was designed to give participants an idea of what to expect during the Truck Ride Along and outline key safety considerations and expectations.

The booklet includes:

- Participants Ride Along event date, arrival time, and starting and ending locations
- Emergency contact details
- Guidelines on safety, including what participants should do before and during the Ride Along, as well as dress code requirements and safety instructions for entering and exiting the truck
- The names of the drivers and locations of the Truck Ride Along

Discussion prompts were also included to help stimulate productive conversation and bridge the gap between truck drivers and other road users. These prompts covered a range of topics, from blind spots and turning issues to key challenges and annoyances in urban traffic.

The booklet also covered the use of still and moving images during the Truck Ride Along. Participants were asked to sign a consent form allowing photos of the event for media and research purposes.

The booklet also outlined that participants were allowed to take photos themselves, provided they did so safely and received approval before posting.

After creating the Truck Ride Along Booklet, CLOCS-A partners were invited to nominate participants for the pilot program. A member of the CLOCS-A team worked closely with Holcim and participants to find a suitable time and location each Truck Ride Along event, and each participant was given a customised booklet. The Ride Along received an enthusiastic response, with participants ranging from university students to representatives from government and regulator bodies.

Key challenges

The Pilot Truck Ride Along Program went smoothly – with all drivers and participants expressing highly positive feedback about the experience. The success of the program can be attributed to careful planning and close communication between the CLOCS-A and Holcim team. Two key considerations also helped prevent any challenges or adverse events during the Ride Along events.

Firstly, the comprehensive Truck Ride Along Information Pack ensured that participants had a clear understanding of what to expect and what was expected of them, which helped the program run smoothly.

Secondly, safety was a top priority throughout the program, especially given locations included busy quarries with frequent truck movements. To ensure the safety of participants before, during, and after their rides, a comprehensive on-site induction was conducted before the ride, and detailed safety information on how to get in and out of the truck was provided in the information booklet. Furthermore, the drivers who participated in the program were highly trained and competent, and their trucks were equipped with advanced safety technology. This helped to ensure that participants felt safe and secure throughout the program.

Achievements and Community Impacts

Initial pilots of the Ride Along program have been highly successful, with participants noting a change in their perceptions of the challenges that truck drivers face, as well as a greater awareness of how to share the road safely with heavy vehicles. In particular, participants report an improvement in their awareness of truck blind spots, noting their surprise at the limited visibility of other road users when in a truck. An evaluation research project is currently underway, which aims to evaluate the influence of the Ride Along program on participants attitudes towards truck drivers and intentions when sharing the road with heavy vehicles. The results of this evaluation will be disseminated via NRSPP and CLOCS-A channels.

Guided by the experience of the pilot Ride Along Program, CLOCS-A has developed guidance resources to assist other organisations in implementing similar initiatives across Australia. By taking a proactive approach to corporate social responsibility, construction companies can play a vital role in helping to bridge the gap between truck drivers and other road users, help promote safer truck interactions and minimise the risk of accidents on our roads during major construction projects.



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Summary

The Truck Ride Along Program, implemented by CLOCS-A and NRSPP in partnership with Holcim (Australia), represents an important avenue for creating safer interactions between truck drivers and other road users. Through firsthand experiences riding alongside truck drivers, participants gained insight into the challenges faced by drivers and promoted safer road interactions. Positive feedback and initial evaluation findings indicate improved attitudes and awareness among participants towards truck drivers and sharing the road with heavy vehicles. The program's success led to the creation of guidance documents for similar initiatives, highlighting the importance of corporate social responsibility in promoting safer truck interactions, protecting vulnerable road users, and reducing incidents.

More about the organisation

Construction Logistics and Community Safety – Australia (CLOCS-A) is a national good practice approach for managing the risks and impacts associated with a construction project's on-road transport and logistics activities to community road safety.

Holcim is a construction materials company that has been operating in Australia for over a century, contributing to the development of many iconic projects in the country. With a focus on providing products and services to some of the most technically demanding projects, Holcim has accumulated a wealth of experience that sets it apart as a global leader in innovative and sustainable building solutions. Holcim is passionate about building progress for people and the planet, and works across commercial/ industrial, residential, civil/infrastructure and architectural/ decorative concrete projects.

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