



Road Safety Audits



Common Issues and Challenges

- **Time**



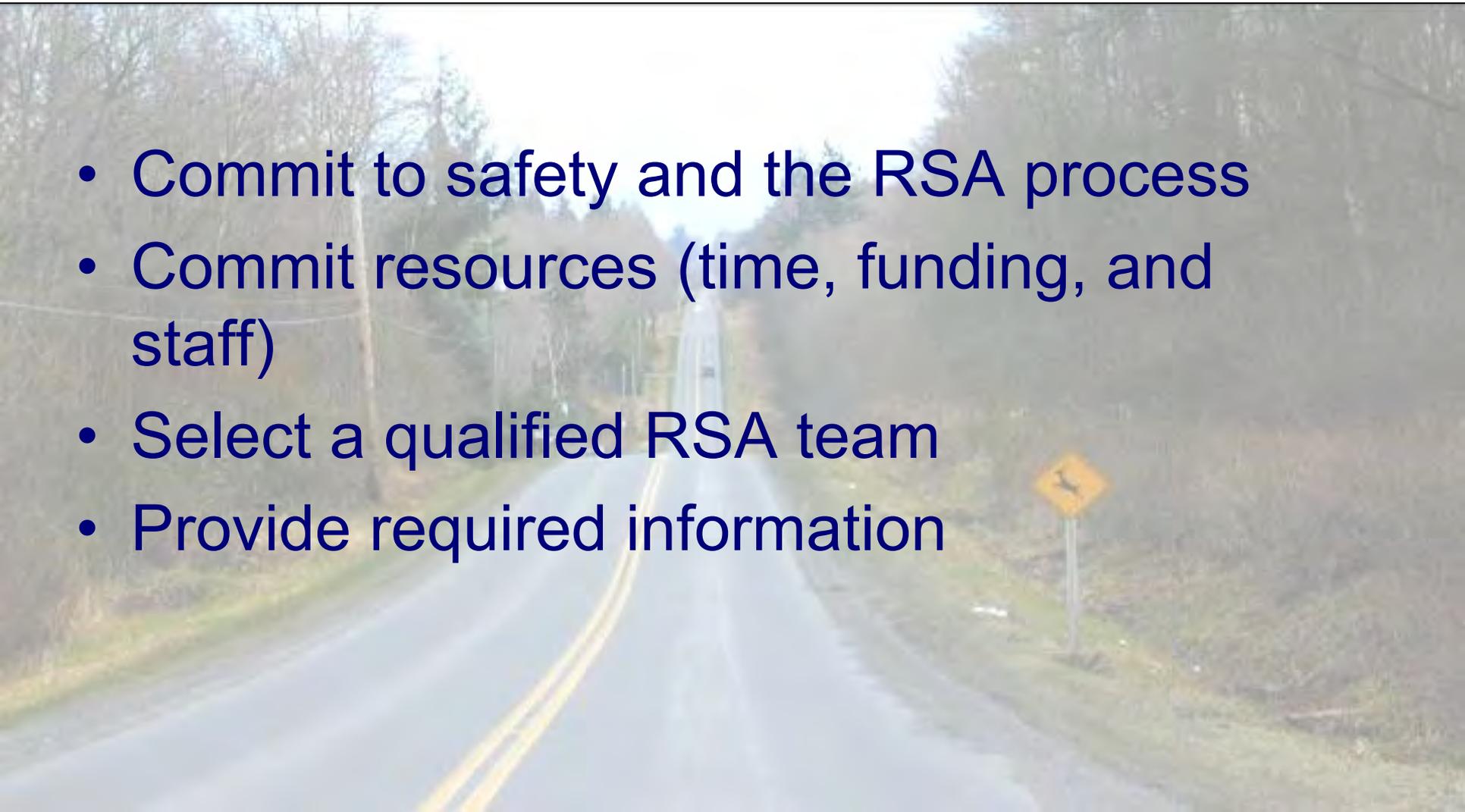
- **Cost**



- **Risk**

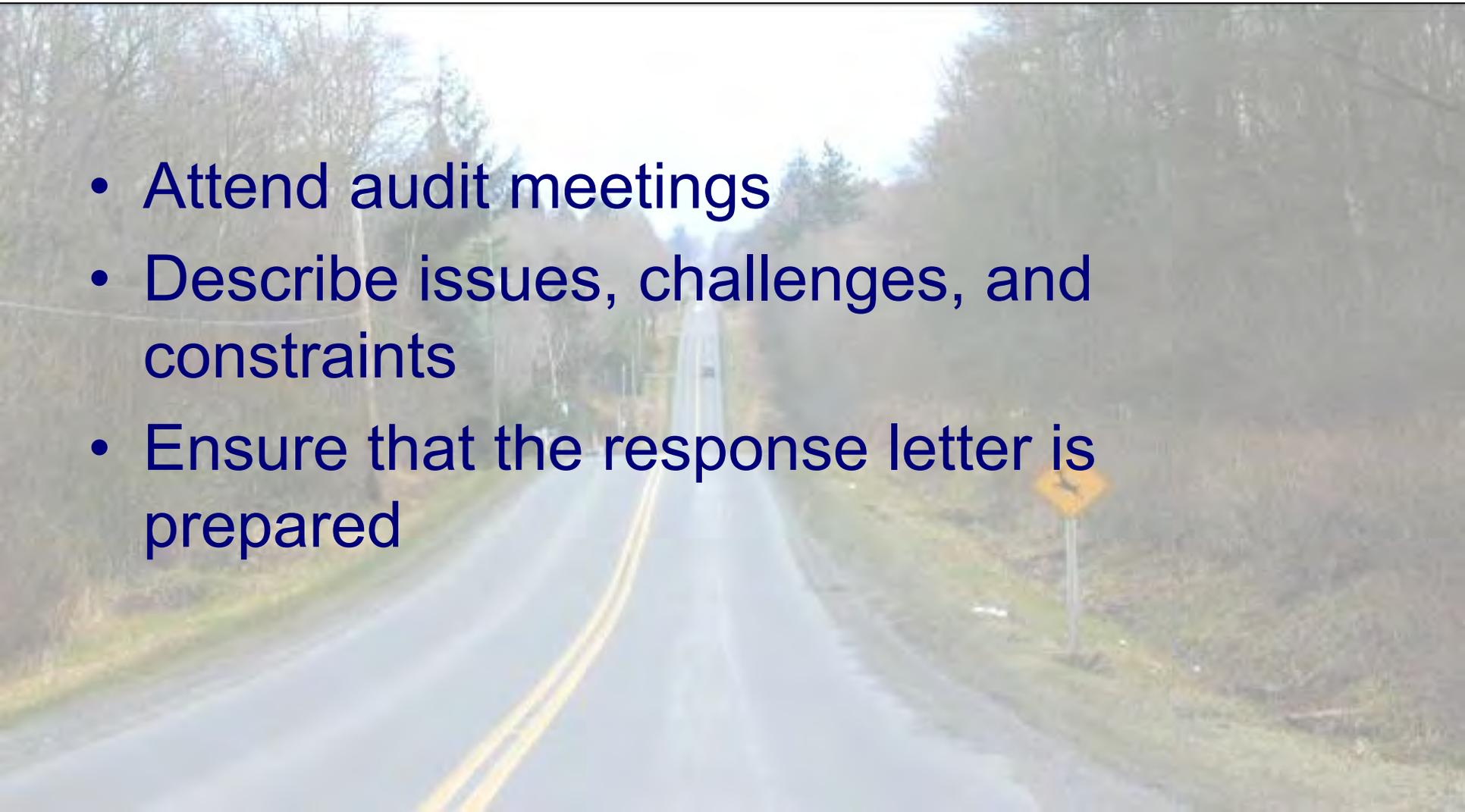


RSA Responsibilities: Local Road Agency

- Commit to safety and the RSA process
 - Commit resources (time, funding, and staff)
 - Select a qualified RSA team
 - Provide required information
- 
- A photograph of a two-lane road with double yellow lines, surrounded by trees and a yellow diamond-shaped warning sign on the right side. The road is paved and curves slightly to the right. The background is a dense line of trees, some with bare branches, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall image has a slightly faded, semi-transparent appearance, serving as a background for the text.

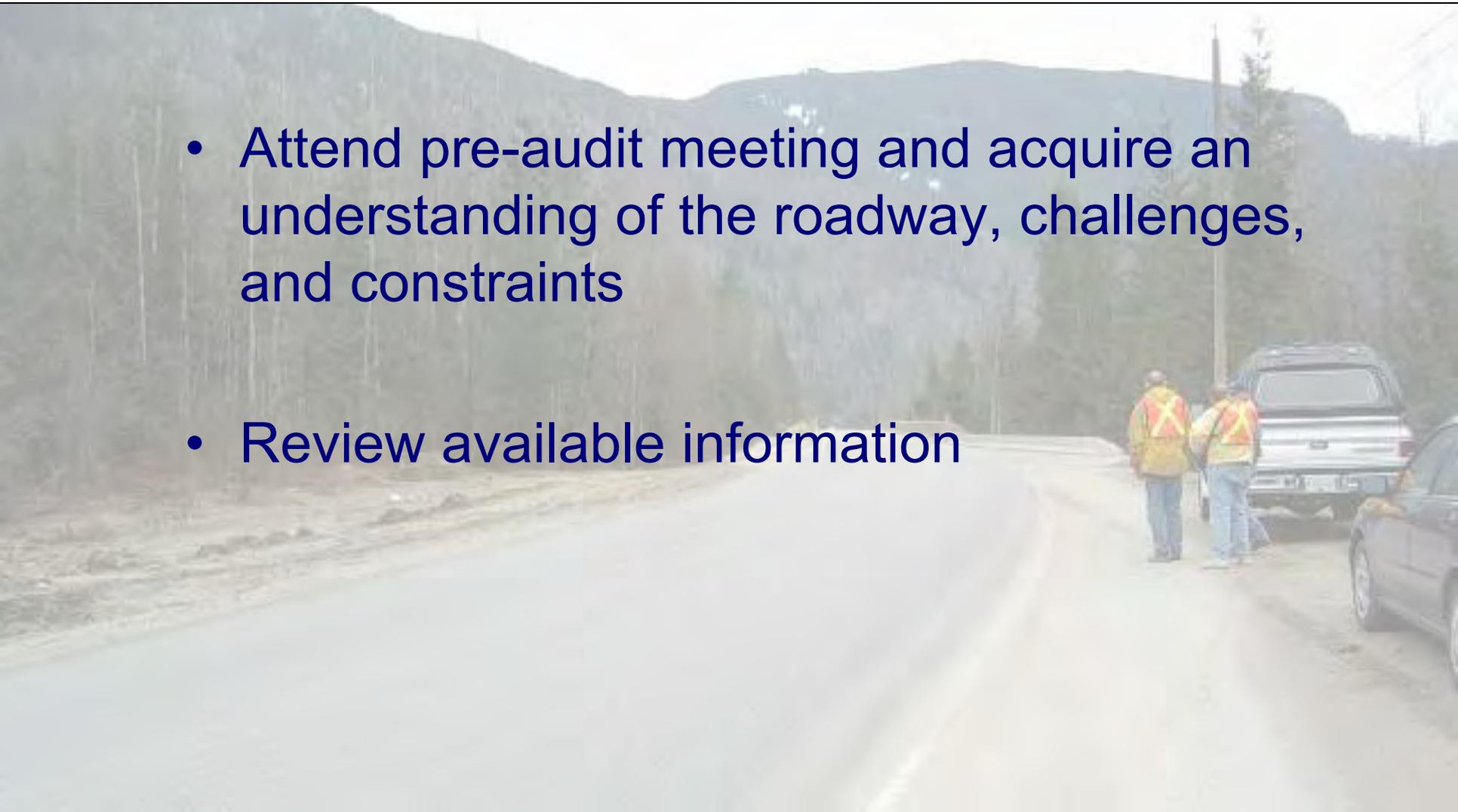
RSA Responsibilities: Local Road Agency

- Attend audit meetings
- Describe issues, challenges, and constraints
- Ensure that the response letter is prepared



RSA Responsibilities: Audit Team

- Attend pre-audit meeting and acquire an understanding of the roadway, challenges, and constraints
- Review available information



RSA Responsibilities: Audit Team

- Conduct field review
- Identify safety issues
- Identify feasible suggestions for mitigation
- Present preliminary findings at post-audit meeting



Management of Expectations

- All parties need to be:
 - diplomatic
 - cooperative
 - constructive.



Photo: Craig Allred (FHWA)

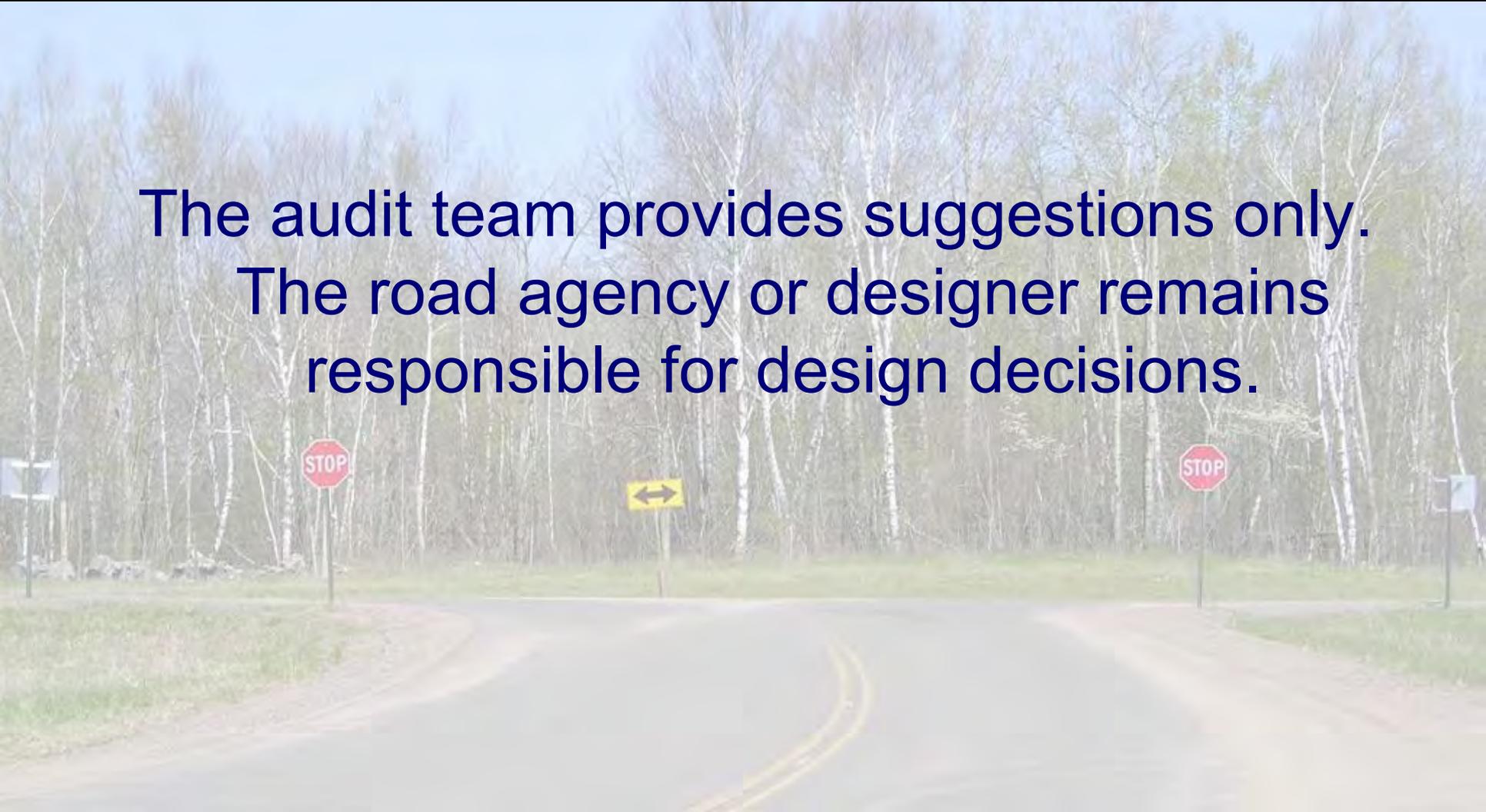
*Pre-construction audits:
Will an RSA delay the project?*



- RSAs require a relatively short time.
- Pre-construction RSAs can occur concurrently with the agency's review of the design drawings.

*Pre- and post-construction
audits:
Will an RSA drive up costs?*

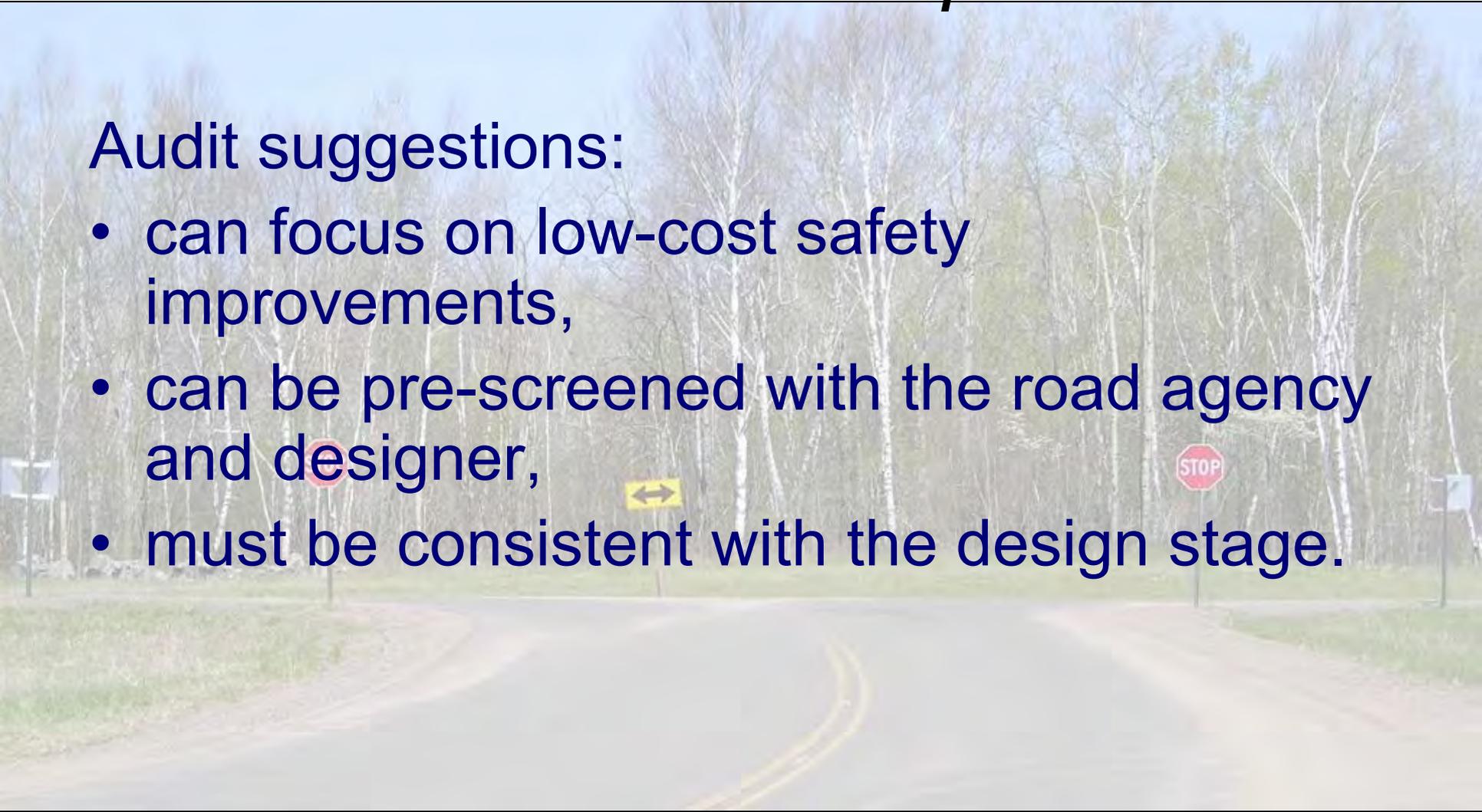
The audit team provides suggestions only.
The road agency or designer remains
responsible for design decisions.



Pre- and post-construction audits: Will an RSA drive up costs?

Audit suggestions:

- can focus on low-cost safety improvements,
- can be pre-screened with the road agency and designer,
- must be consistent with the design stage.



Do RSAs expose agencies to more Risk?

- RSAs can be part of a safety management system.
- Agencies can be taken to court with or without a road safety audit.
- Agencies should seek legal advice.





Issues and Challenges: Risk

Do RSAs expose agencies to more Risk?



“We did not know” is not a defense and does not relieve an agency’s liability.

The question is, “should you have known, in your position?”



Do RSAs expose agencies to more risk?

Auditors must carefully complete the RSA to a reasonable standard of care and professionalism.

- *identify RSA scope*
- *identify RSA materials*
- *identify limitations*
- *consult during audit*

Issues and Challenges: Risk



Do RSAs expose agencies to more risk?



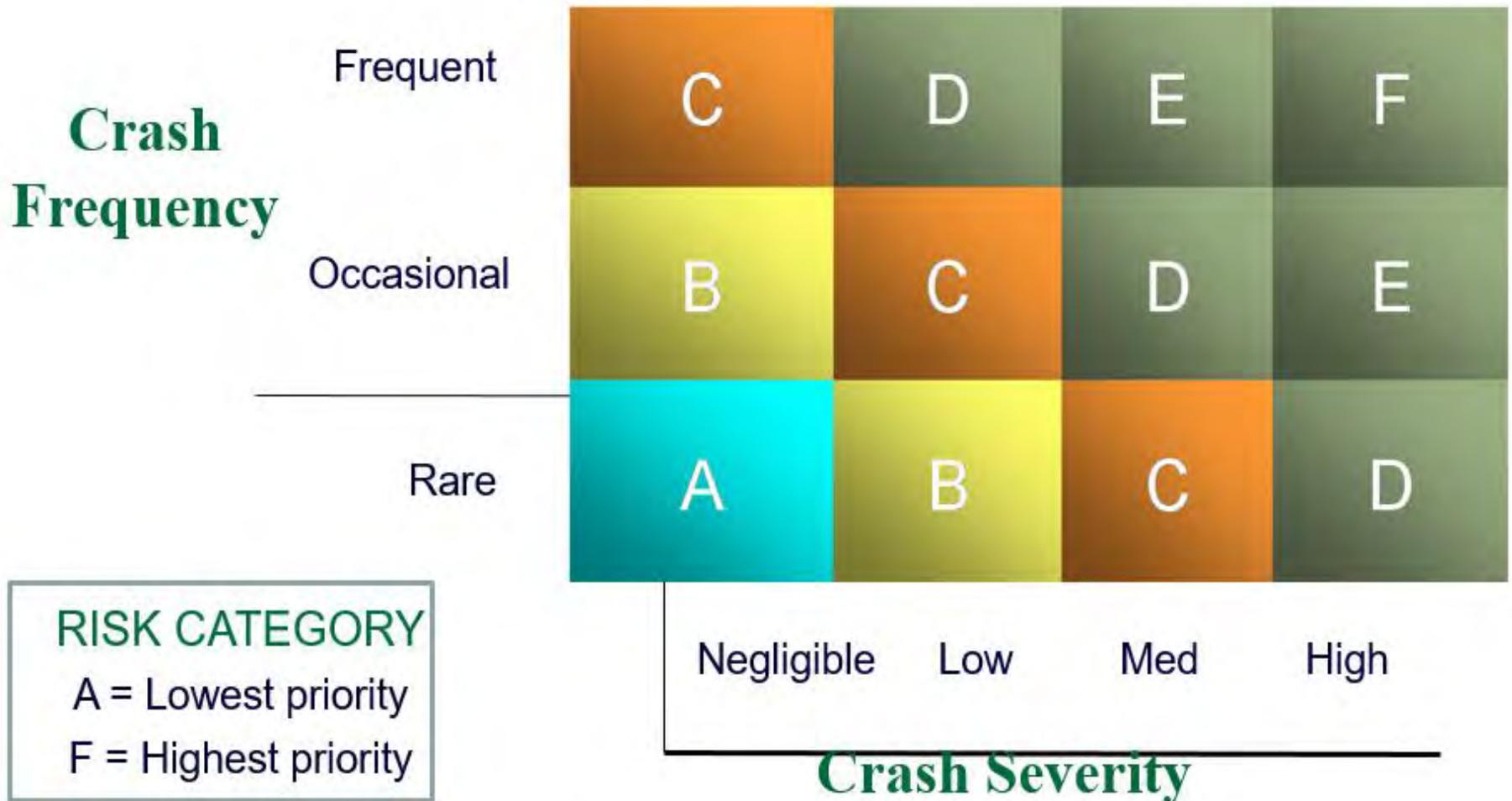
Safety information gathered pursuant to a federal highway safety program may be protected by federal statute (23U.S.C.409).

Do RSAs expose agencies to more risky?

“[RSAs] demonstrate a proactive approach to identifying and mitigating safety concerns.”

“Our attorneys say that once safety issues are identified, and if we have financial limitations on how much and how fast we can correct the issues, then the audit will help us in managing risk.”

Using Relative Risk to Prioritize Safety Issues



Common Issues and Challenges

