Safe Road Users, Safe Vehicles and Safe Roads
Who is Advocates: Our Board

Joan Claybrook, President Emeritus, Public Citizen, and former Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

R. David Pittle, Product Safety and Regulatory Consultant, and former Commissioner, Consumer Product Safety Commission
Advocates: Our Accomplishments

- Government crash safety ratings displayed on vehicles (2005)
- Improved head injury protection (1991) and advanced side impact protection (2005)
- Advanced impaired driving technology (2021)
- Automatic shutoff for vehicles with keyless ignitions and combustion engines (2021)
- Rollover prevention and roof strength (2005)
- Rearview cameras and prevention of vehicle roll-away (2008)
- Child passenger safety upgrades including testing standards for booster seats and rear-center lap shoulder belts (2002); child safety seat performance; and child seat anchor systems (LATCH) (2012); and alert system for unattended occupants and updated seat back standard (2021)
- Minimum sound requirements for hybrid and electric vehicles (2010)
- Hood and bumper standards for vulnerable road user safety (2021)
- Headlamp aiming (1997) and permitting adaptive driving beams (2021)
- Research and potential rulemaking on driver monitoring systems to prevent distracted driving (2021)
- Airbags as standard equipment (1991) and advanced airbags (1998)
- Collision avoidance technology including automatic emergency braking, lane departure warning and lane keep assist (2021)
Status of Traffic Safety is Dire

Human Toll:
- 115 people killed on our roads every day
- 2022: 31,785 people killed in the first 9 months
- 2021: 42,915 people killed - 10.5% increase
- 2020: 38,824 people killed - 21% increase

Financial Toll:
- Over $1 trillion in total costs to society
- "Crash tax" of $1,035 on every person living in the U.S.
- Crashes alone cost employers $72.2 billion (2018)
Advocates: Our Approach

Advocates’ Mission

Safe Road Users
Safe Vehicles
Safe Roads

A Comprehensive Approach

State Legislation
Federal Legislation
Federal Regulation

Advocates’ Programs
Emphasizes Advocates’ Comprehensive Approach

Identifies Solutions

• Federal:
  o Advancing proven vehicle safety technology
  o Funding for roadway infrastructure safety upgrades

• State
  o Adoption of 16 critical traffic safety laws
  o Issues: distracted and impaired driving, occupant protection, child passenger safety, motorcycle rider safety, novice teen and young adult drivers and automated enforcement

Messaging

• We know the issues. There are proven solutions. We need ACTION.
Looking Forward - Evolving Issues

Automated vehicles (AVs) and Automated driving systems (ADS)

Marijuana/Cannabis and Polyuse Impaired Driving

Priority Countermeasures:
• Advanced impaired driving prevention technology
• Accelerated research to determine a causal link
• Standard for cannabis impaired driving
• Verified roadside testing technology
• State laws: broadening open container, extending zero tolerance for under age 21 and lowering BAC limits to .05%

Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety
(Pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users, motorcycle riders, micromobility riders, roadside first responders, road construction workers)

Priority Countermeasures:
• State traffic safety laws to prohibit deadly driving (speeding, distracted, impaired)
• Curbing speed/protectiong VRUs – infrastructure upgrades, automated enforcement, intelligent speed assist
• Automatic emergency braking: required to detect and respond to all people and objects in the roadway, at all speeds, in light and dark lighting conditions
VIRTUAL CAPITOL HILL BRIEFING
EXPERT PANEL
on
AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE (AV) SAFETY
March 7, 2023 | 10 AM EST

Speakers:

Cathy Chase
President
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Anna Buhlinger
Federal Affairs Director
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

Julia M. C. Friedlander
Senior Manager
Automated Driving Policy
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

Anna Buhlinger
Former Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Dr. David Harkey
President
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Dr. Missy Cummings
Professor
College of Engineering and Computing
George Mason University

Carol Tyson
Government Affairs Liaison
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Greg Regan
President
Transportation Trades Department
AFL-CIO

Juan Claybrook
Former Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Dr. David Harkey
President
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Panel Discussion:
Many lofty promises have been offered about how the deployment of autonomous vehicles (AVs) will resolve numerous safety, accessibility, global market competition and other issues.

Time for a Reality Check!
Join our expert panel which will discuss varied perspectives on public policy, engineering and development, research, federal oversight, insurance implications, disability rights, the workforce and real-world experience.

For more information, contact hjonesesaferoads.org

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