



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: December 26, 2012

In reply refer to: H-12-38 through -42

The Honorable Victor M. Mendez
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Washington, DC 20590

On December 11, 2012, the NTSB adopted its special investigation report concerning wrong-way driving, which addressed the safety issues associated with wrong-way driving collisions and provided countermeasures to prevent such accidents.¹ Additional information about this special investigation and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number NTSB/SIR-12/01.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB issued 16 new recommendations, including 2 to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; 1 to the 33 states that do not mandate the use of alcohol ignition interlock devices for all driving while intoxicated offenders, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia; 1 to the 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia; 1 to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; 1 to the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety, Inc.; 1 to the International Association of Chiefs of Police; 1 to the National Sheriffs' Association; 1 to SAE International; 2 to the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Global Automakers, and the Consumer Electronics Association; and the following 5 recommendations to the Federal Highway Administration:

H-12-38

Work with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to (1) identify efforts to reduce the involvement of older drivers in wrong-way collisions and (2) publish the findings in a report that includes consideration of Strategic Highway Safety Plan countermeasures that have been effective.

¹ See *Wrong-Way Driving*, Highway Special Investigation Report NTSB/SIR-12/01 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2012).

H-12-39

Develop an assessment tool that the states can use to select appropriate countermeasures for problematic controlled-access highway locations that is based on a review of (1) state research concerning wrong-way driving and (2) countermeasures found to be effective by the states in reducing the instances of wrong-way driving.

H-12-40

Develop and distribute to the states a manual they can use as a resource document when implementing strategies and countermeasures to reduce the instances of drivers traveling the wrong way on divided highways. At a minimum, such a manual should provide solutions that would (1) prevent drivers from entering an access ramp that would allow them to travel in the wrong direction on a divided highway, (2) alert drivers to their error should they enter a ramp while traveling in the wrong direction, (3) allow drivers to correct for traveling in the wrong direction while on an access ramp, and (4) alert drivers to their error if they are traveling the wrong way on a divided highway.

H-12-41

Revise the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* as required to address issues of signage and channelization to reduce instances of, and warn drivers of, wrong-way movements.

H-12-42

Develop a Highway Safety Improvement Program policy memorandum for use by state department of transportation agencies to establish wrong-way monitoring programs.

These safety recommendations are derived from the NTSB's investigation and are consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Chairman HERSMAN, Vice Chairman HART, and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov.

[Original Signed]

By: Deborah A.P. Hersman
Chairman