

## Attention Transportation Safety Colleagues!

You are receiving this e-newsletter because you have expressed an interest in transportation safety advocacy happenings at the National Transportation Safety Board.  
We look forward to continuing our work with you.



### HIGHLIGHTING NTSB ADVOCACY IN ACTION

VOL 2 ISSUE 1

### THE BIG STORIES

#### NTSB Announces 2016 Most Wanted List



In January, the NTSB announced its top 10 transportation safety priority issues for 2016. The NTSB's Most Wanted List highlights safety-critical actions needed to help prevent accidents and save lives. This year's list includes the following:

- Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents
- Improve Rail Transit Safety Oversight
- Promote Availability of Collision Avoidance Technologies in Highway Vehicles
- Strengthen Occupant Protection
- Disconnect from Deadly Distractions
- Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation
- Promote the Completion of Rail Safety Initiatives
- End Substance Impairment in Transportation
- Require Medical Fitness for Duty
- Expand Use of Recorders to Enhance Transportation Safety

### In This Issue

General Advocacy and Outreach

Highway Safety

Youth and Teen Outreach

Legislative Outreach

Investigation Updates & Safety Alerts

MWL - Progress Report

### Blogs of Note

Recorders Improve Transportation Safety

Helping Build a Nation of Safe, Healthy Communities

Alcohol Awareness Month

Addressing Dangers on the Road - No April's Fools

Wake Up America!

Sleep Awareness Week

Educating the Educators

Rail Tank Car Improvements - Make Them Now!

Emerging From Tragedy to Inspire Others to Disconnect

It's as Simple as Don't Drink and Drive

For more details on each issue area, visit NTSB's [website](#) and read Chairman Hart's [blog](#).

More Needs to be Done to Improve Helicopter EMS Safety



## .05 BAC Proposal - Hotly Debated

The announcement of the NTSB's 2016 Most Wanted List featuring "[End Substance Impairment in Transportation](#)" ignited a national dialogue about our call for states to lower the per se blood alcohol content limit from .08 to .05, a recommendation we made several years ago in our "[Reaching Zero](#)" report. Each week, for nearly 8 weeks after our MWL announcement, national media debated the merits of

our proposal. Board Members defended our recommendation in [blogs](#) and in media interviews. Decades of scientific studies show that most drivers are significantly impaired by the time they reach a .05 BAC and that a lower BAC law can save lives.

## New Social Media Initiatives

The NTSB announced a new social media initiative, #MWLMonday, designed to promote awareness and encourage discussion about the safety issues identified in the Most Wanted List. Each Monday throughout the year, the NTSB will feature one of the top 10 MWL issue areas via Twitter, a blog, or Facebook--or a combination of all three--and we encourage everyone to share our messages.



The NTSB is now also on [Instagram](#)--a new way to reach our millennial audience on teen driving and other safety issues.

## GENERAL ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

### April - A Busy Month for 'Awareness' Campaigns

The NTSB launched several social media campaigns and Chairman Hart attended events in April to promote Distracted Driving Awareness Month and Alcohol Awareness Month. Chairman Hart kicked off the month by addressing the World Traffic Safety Symposium in New York. He later helped California kick off its distraction and teen driving safety week at Inglewood High School, alongside local law enforcement and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Administrator Mark Rosekind. The NTSB posted numerous tweets about distraction, as well as a blog. In another blog, we discussed the dangers of impairment and our .05 BAC recommendation (see "Blogs of Note"). The American Public Health Association's National Public Health Week was also April 4-10. The NTSB participated in a Twitter chat and facilitated a [blog](#) about the epidemic of car crashes.



Chairman Hart at Inglewood HS, Inglewood, Calif.

## Talking Automation & Other Issues at Passenger Vessel Safety Conference

In late January, Chairman Hart addressed mariners at the Passenger Vessel Association's Annual Conference in Washington, DC, about three areas of concern: fatigue; distraction, especially by portable electronic devices; and increasing automation. According to Hart, "fatigue and distraction introduce performance detriments and threaten safety. Increasing automation, on the other hand, can improve safety, but sometimes carries with it unintended consequences and sometimes raises new questions as old issues are solved."



## NTSB Shares Lessons Learned at Heli Expo

NTSB Vice Chairman Dinh-Zarr, aviation safety investigators, and safety advocates attended HAI Heli-Expo, the world's largest helicopter conference and expo. An annual event sponsored by the Helicopter Association International, this year's event took place in February in Louisville, Ky., and nearly 20,000 owner-operators, pilots, mechanics, manufacturers, and helicopter vendors attended. At the Safety Symposium at the start of the conference, the Vice Chairman talked about NTSB safety priorities, including the value of recorder technologies, and praised the helicopter industry for safety improvements. This symposium also featured a discussion by the Federal Aviation Administration and the International Helicopter Safety Team/US Helicopter Safety team about crash rates and how safety affects the bottom line. Over the remaining two days of the conference, NTSB investigators gave presentations regarding crashworthy fuel tanks and autorotations, and manned a booth featuring Most Wanted List materials and helicopter crash reports. See the [blog](#) about the event.

## Chairman Visits Helicopter & Rail Operators

To see helicopter operations firsthand and discuss safety strategies, in early April, Chairman Hart met with helicopter squadrons from the Los Angeles (LA) Police Department, LA Sheriff Air Operations' Air Unit and the Dive Team (which recently helped locate and recover two airplanes involved in a mid-air collision over San Pedro, Calif.), the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and fire departments from LA County, LA City, and Long Beach. He also met with rail operators, LA Metro and Metrolink, to see how they were deploying positive train control. For more than 40 years, the NTSB has advocated for PTC to prevent and mitigate rail accidents.



## Blog on Rail Fatigue - Most Viewed in NTSB History

NTSB Railroad Division Chief Georgetta Gregory evoked a tremendous social media response with her March 21 blog on fatigue in the railroad, "[Rail Workers -- Deadly Tired, but Still Working.](#)" Gregory recalled her personal story of feeling stressed and exhausted while working in rail operations before joining the NTSB. The blog was the agency's most popular, garnering more than 16,000 views within one week of its posting.

## Sun 'n Fun Event - Opportunity to Address General Aviation Crash Causes

Board Member Weener and aviation safety investigators attended the Sun 'n Fun International Fly-in Expo April 4-10 to bring more



awareness to general aviation enthusiasts and pilots about safety issues such as [loss of control in flight](#), a current Most Wanted List priority area. NTSB reps also gave presentations on pilot reports, amateur-built aircraft construction errors, and premiered a [Safety Alert](#) on safety issues related to attending fly-in aviation shows.



The NTSB has introduced a new reference card and a page on its website to help customers locate aviation-specific products and information (such as major accident reports, accident briefs, safety alerts, and crash data). See the [Aviation Information Resources](#) page.

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

### Making the Tour of the Auto Shows

Chairman Hart and Member Weener learned how automakers were progressing in making collision avoidance technologies standard features of passenger vehicles when they toured auto shows in January. Chairman Hart visited the Washington (DC) Auto Show, and Member Weener joined National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator Rosekind at the International North American Auto Show in Detroit. And from what they saw progress is being made--with many automakers now offering these technologies as standard features and at affordable rates. At the Detroit show, DOT Secretary Fox and the NHTSA Administrator also announced support for the safe deployment of autonomous vehicles and a partnership with 18 automakers to take a proactive, collaborative approach to safety. See the [blog](#).



Member Weener (L) with Admin Rosekind

### NTSB Highway Investigators at Bus Conference & Expo

Highway safety investigators Robert Accetta and Mike LaPonte presented the findings of bus crash investigations before more than 40 bus owners and manufacturers, representing nine regions across the United States, at the United



Laponte at booth

Motorcoach Association's annual conference in Atlanta on January 31. NTSB safety advocates and the investigators also shared information about the agency's recent Most Wanted List at its booth, which was visited by more than 200 UMA attendees over the 3-day conference. Driver fatigue and impairment, and recorder technology benefits, were key points of discussion. See the [blog](#).

## Significant NTSB Presence at Annual Lifesavers Event

In April, NTSB safety advocates and highway safety investigators joined more than 2,000 representatives from law enforcement, industry, government and advocacy groups at the annual Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities in Long Beach, Calif., to share countermeasures and initiatives that address critical highway safety issues. Staff from the NTSB worked on the planning committee, delivered presentations related to lessons learned from crashes, coordinated workshop sessions, moderated the Poster Dash session, ran an exhibit displaying Most Wanted List information, and covered the event extensively via social media.

## NTSB Joins in Release of New Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws



On January 20, the NTSB joined the [Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety](#) (Advocates) for its announcement releasing the *2016 Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws*. The report serves as a "report card" for all 50 states and the District of Columbia, grading them on the enactment of 15 basic traffic safety laws. The report's key takeaway was that, despite preliminary data indicating 2015 highway fatalities were expected to increase 8 percent or more, reversing a 2-year gradual decline, all states were still missing critically important safety laws. In fact, fewer states enacted laws than in any year since Advocates began publishing the report in 2004.

## YOUTH AND TEEN OUTREACH

### Driver's Education: Difference between Life & Death for Teen Drivers

NTSB Safety Advocate Nicholas Worrell and Medical Officer Nicholas Webster showed NTSB's support for driver's education programs by participating in the Dori Slosberg Foundation's [Dori Saves Lives](#) & the Allstate Foundation's Driver Education Conference. The gathering brought together 200 instructors, administrators, and others interested in driver's education or advocating for safer roads. In his keynote address, Worrell urged the group to continue to be frontline safety leaders in delivering safety messages not just to students but to their parents. Webster participated in the Impairment Driving Panel and discussed the many dangers of drugged driving. See the [blog](#).



## LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

## Supporting Laws Addressing Impaired Driving & Occupant Protection

NTSB Chairman Hart provided letters of support for two critical pieces of highway safety legislation introduced in the first part of this year:

- California legislation (SB 1046) would strengthen California's impaired driving countermeasures by mandating ignition interlocks for all driving-while-impaired (DWI) offenders.
- Maryland legislation (HB 373) would expand Maryland's primary seat belt law to apply to all vehicle occupants in all seating positions. Currently, Maryland only authorizes secondary enforcement of its rear seat requirements.

## INVESTIGATION UPDATES & SAFETY ALERTS

The NTSB released five [Safety Alerts](#) (safety awareness products) and one major highway report, in which a Most Wanted List safety issue was identified, in the first part of 2016, as follows:

- Safety Alert: Arriving at a Major Fly-in Event: Keep Your Focus on Safety
- Safety Alert: Pilots - Fueling Matters
- Safety Alert: Visual Illusions: The Ground May be Closer Than it Appears
- Safety Alert: Flight Control Locks: Overlooking the Obvious - Use Checklists to Prevent Procedural Omissions
- Safety Alert: The Impact of Oversize Loads on Our Nation's Bridges
- Major Report: [Commercial Truck Collision with Stopped Vehicles on Interstate 88, Naperville, Illinois, January 27, 2014](#) (MWL issue: fatigue)

For a complete listing of all our reports released in the first part of 2016, visit the NTSB [website](#).

## MOST WANTED LIST - PROGRESS REPORT (Hits and Misses)

### Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents

- An article published in *Injury Prevention* written by NTSB's Jeff Marcus and former NTSB Member Rosekind (now National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator) discusses the results of a review of all recent major NTSB investigations in all modes of transportation for the presence of fatigue. The review found fatigue to be present in 20 percent of accidents--either as a probable cause, a contributing factor, or a finding. The article was discussed in a [blog](#) during Sleep Awareness Week in March.
- A new [study](#) from the University of Minnesota Morris reveals that truck drivers who do not maintain their sleep apnea treatment, "have a fivefold increase in the risk of serious, preventable crashes." The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration currently does not require sleep apnea screenings for commercial truck drivers.
- A [new report](#) by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine says the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration should make numerous improvements in data and research methods "to support a more comprehensive understanding of the relationships between operator fatigue and highway safety." Available crash reporting databases often provide a paucity of information on sleep deficiency in CMV drivers, their adherence to HOS rules, and their crash frequency as a result of fatigued driving.

### Improve Rail Transit Safety Oversight

- In March, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia announced they had reached a deal that would create an independent agency that will provide safety oversight of the Metro Rail system. The NTSB has long advocated for improved oversight of the Washington, DC, Metro system, which has seen numerous accidents in the last decade. However, given that the three

jurisdictions have been unable to create an effective oversight body in the past, and that the proposed oversight body will take time to create - if an effective three-jurisdiction body can be created - the NTSB continues to advocate for federal oversight of the system, by the Federal Railroad Administration.

- The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration on March 14 announced a [final rule](#) that it claims would significantly strengthen state safety oversight and enforcement authority to prevent and mitigate accidents and incidents on rail transit systems.

### **Promote Availability of Collision Avoidance Technologies in Highway Vehicles**

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety [announced](#) on March 17 a commitment by 20 automakers representing more than 99 percent of the U.S. auto market to make automatic emergency braking a standard feature on virtually all new cars no later than NHTSA's 2022 reporting year, which begins Sept 1, 2022.
- NTSB Member Weener discussed the benefits of collision avoidance technologies for commercial vehicles on Sirius radio's Tech Talk show in early April. The channel listeners are primarily truck drivers and operators, and the show offered them the unique opportunity to ask NTSB leadership questions about and comment on the new technology.

### **Strengthen Occupant Protection**

- The NTSB, led by Vice Chairman Dinh-Zarr, hosted a one-day invitation-only [workshop](#) on April 26 to discuss ways to improve the safety of occupants in the rear seats of passenger vehicles. Session topics addressed current requirements for rear occupant protection, research on ways to improve rear seat safety, vehicle technologies available now, and steps industry has taken or could take to improve rear seat safety.
- AAA is [renewing calls](#) for school buses nationwide to install seat belts to protect students after several crashes in recent months.

### **Disconnect from Deadly Distractions**

- As part of Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April, the National Safety Council hosted a webinar, entitled [Dashboard Technology: Friend or Foe](#), to discuss the dangers of cognitive distraction. More than 330 employers, state highway safety offices, and members of the general public participated in the event. NTSB Member Sumwalt presented an overview of crashes involving drivers who were cognitively impaired (where their minds were engaged on tasks outside of the driving task.)
- On the 1-year anniversary of its Distracted Driving Multimodal Roundtable Discussion, the NTSB released the transcript of the event on its [website](#).
- In January, the Massachusetts and Virginia legislatures considered legislation to prohibit some use of personal electronic devices by drivers. The Massachusetts Senate voted in favor of a hands-free bill (SB 2093), and a Virginia bill passed in committee on January 25 (HB 461) that would expand the state's current ban on texting to all other smartphone uses. Neither the Massachusetts nor Virginia bill ultimately passed their full houses.

### **Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation**

- Member Weener made a presentation to the Northwest Aviation Conference in Seattle, where he briefed on loss of control and other Most Wanted List safety issues.
- The General Aviation Joint Steering Committee met on March 30 in Washington DC to discuss ongoing work and receive updates including briefings on NTSB's work on pilot reports, FAA's work regarding airport cameras, and research into angle of attack indicators. Last year, 384 people died in 238 general aviation accidents. Loss of control remains the committee's greatest concern. Through its [Fly Safe](#) education campaign, it has had 35 million impressions on social media platforms.

### **Promote the Completion of Rail Safety Initiatives**

- Chairman Hart addressed SafeRail Incorporating the 6th Annual PTC World Congress on the challenges of implementing positive train control, which helps prevent or mitigate the effects of human error and prevent accidents. The Chairman urged the group to learn from the aviation community, where traffic collision avoidance systems saved countless lives and millions of dollars.
- The Federal Railroad Administration is tracking on its [website](#) which railroads are meeting the positive train control deadline (the NTSB is tracking them too!).
- The Federal Railroad Administration in March proposed a [rule](#) requiring trains to have at least two crew members while at the same allowing railroads with positive train control to apply for an exception that would allow them to use only one engineer.

### End Substance Impairment in Transportation

- The Maryland legislature passed "Noah's Law" (SB 495/HB 1342), which requires specific offenders to participate in the state's Ignition Interlock System Program, including a person who is convicted of driving under the influence, a person convicted of driving while impaired, and a person who refuses or fails a breath alcohol concentration test.
- Hawaii lawmakers considered a bill (SB 2053) to lower the blood-alcohol limit from .08 to .06 percent. The bill died in committee.
- The California legislature proposed a bill (SB 1462) in April to allow the use of oral swabs to detect driver drug use. A hand-held electronic device would test for the presence of marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines and pain medications (including opiates) on the swab, according to Sen. Bob Huff, who authored the bill.

### Require Medical Fitness for Duty

- The [Federal Railroad Administration](#) and the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#) are considering rules focused on reducing the safety risks associated with untreated obstructive sleep apnea among workers in the transportation industry. The agencies issued a joint Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and planned to [hold three public listening sessions](#). The NTSB is commenting.
- New York City's Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced on April 19 that it would make permanent its pilot program testing train operators on the Metro-North for sleep apnea and will also expand it to the city subway system, buses, and the Long Island Rail Road. This comes more than 2 years after the deadly Metro-North train derailment in the Bronx caused by an engineer with sleep apnea and recommendations made by the NTSB.

### Expand Use of Recorders to Enhance Transportation Safety

- The Bay Area Rapid Transit District in California is pushing to install cameras in each train car following a shooting on January 9. BART spokeswoman Alicia Trost said "the safety of our riders and employees is our top priority."
- Icon Aircraft has recently started to ask buyers with deposits on the A5 light sport aircraft to sign a sales contract before taking delivery of their airplanes. Every aircraft will come equipped with a flight data recorder that the owner is required to use at all times and maintain at his own expense. The company can review the data and will grant the owner limited access to such data.

**DID YOU KNOW? ... You can get all NTSB official Board Member speeches and testimonies on the [NTSB website](#).**

### UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE

**Global Youth Traffic Safety Month**

May

**NTSB PIREPS - Aviation Reports Forum**

June 21-22

**Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month**

NTSB **Pedestrian Safety Forum** May 10 **Fourth of July Impairment Awareness** July 4

**National Safe Boating Week** May 16 **Rail Tank Car Roundtable** July 13

**Memorial Day/Boating Safety Awareness** May 30

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