



## **July 25, 2017 Board Meeting: Safety Study: Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles**

**Acting Chairman Robert L. Sumwalt**

### **Opening Statement**

Good afternoon and welcome to the Boardroom of the National Transportation Safety Board.

I am Robert Sumwalt, and it is my privilege to serve as the Acting Chairman of the NTSB. Joining me today are my colleagues on the board, Member Christopher Hart, Member Earl Weener, and Member Bella Dinh-Zarr.

Today, we meet in open session, as required by the Government in the Sunshine Act, to consider a safety study titled Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles.

In simple terms, speeding means driving faster than the speed limit or too fast for conditions.

Prior to NTSB, I was an avid pilot. In aviation circles, there's a saying that "speed is life." While that saying may hold some truth in aviation, that is certainly not the case on our roadways.

From 2005 to 2014, nearly a third of fatal crashes were speeding-related – more than 10,000 a year.

The simple truth is that speeding makes a crash more likely. In a crash that's speeding-related, you're more likely to be injured, your injuries are more likely to be severe, and you're more likely to die.

And that's true whether you're the speeding driver, another driver, a passenger, a bicyclist, or a pedestrian.

But people don't think of speeding the way that they think about some other hazardous driving behaviors.

Unlike other crash factors such as alcohol impairment or unbelted occupants, speeding has few negative social consequences associated with it, and does not have a leader campaigning to increase public awareness about the issue at the national level.

As we will hear this afternoon, for this study, the NTSB set out to update our knowledge about speeding and to identify actions that can make the roads safer for us all.

The authors reviewed data on public attitudes, and questioned how speed limits are set and enforced. They interviewed federal regulators and state and local law enforcement, and looked at what's working elsewhere.

They reviewed technologies that help motorists monitor and limit their speed, and help law enforcement enforce the limits.

And they also looked at the safe system approach, which identifies layers of protection for the whole road environment.

We hope that this study helps to bring the issue of speeding back into the spotlight.

Now Acting Managing Director Dennis Jones... would you kindly introduce the staff.

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