

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 2

THE BIG STORIES

Helping Kids Get to School Safely



Vice Chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr teamed up with child safety advocacy groups to remind parents, children and community leaders to make safety a priority when going to and from school--whether walking, riding, driving, or taking the bus. The Vice Chairman and NTSB advocacy staff participated in the Bike Safely to Work/School Awareness event at Lincoln Park in Washington, DC, in May, which promoted the health benefits of biking. In August, at the Back-to-School event in Rockville, Maryland, the Vice Chairman promoted various ways to travel to school safely--school buses being the safest. Media outlets, including Hispanic/Latino, covered the event. To read more about safe transport to school, read our blog, [How Will You Send Your Kid to School?](#)

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Rail Tank Car Roundtable

On July 13, Member Robert Sumwalt hosted a day-long roundtable focused on rail tank car safety, in which more than two dozen rail-car manufacturers and owners, union representatives, and transportation safety professionals discussed the rail industry's progress and challenges on implementing new federal safety standards for tank cars that carry flammable liquids. Industry leaders discussed the

logistics of replacing the existing tank car fleet in flammable liquid service to meet new federally imposed deadlines. They also identified ways to overcome deadline roadblocks. The NTSB featured two blogs highlighting key aspects of the discussion--one on [August 1](#) and the other on [August 11](#).

GENERAL ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Military Outreach - Keeping Safe Those Who Keep Us Safe

NTSB Safety Advocacy Chief Nicholas Worrell and staff from DRIVE Smart Virginia addressed 3,500 servicemen and women on the U.S.S. George Washington about the importance of safe driving. Worrell recognized their dedication to protecting Americans and our freedom, and urged them to allow the core values of honor, courage, and commitment to guide them to make smart driving decisions. Avoid fatigue, distraction and impairment, he told them. Read the blog, [Honor. Courage. Commitment](#).



A Visit to the Ferries

Vice Chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr and Marine Safety Director Brian Curtis visited ferry operators on both the East and West coasts to view daily operations and discuss safety issues. In June, they visited the Staten Island (NY) Ferry DOT Operations Center and United States Merchant Marine Academy and, in August, the Washington State Ferry on Bainbridge Island (WA).

Recognizing Our Partnership with Law Enforcement

The NTSB considers the law enforcement community to be partners in improving transportation safety. To recognize their work in traffic safety in 2015-16, Safety Advocacy Chief Nicholas Worrell delivered the keynote address during the Safety Council Annual Law Enforcement Awards Luncheon in West Palm Beach, Florida. Additionally, Robert Accetta, a highway safety investigator, briefed New Mexico



law enforcement on lessons learned from impairment-related highway and aviation accidents. In July, Safety Advocacy staff observed a sobriety checkpoint in Maryland. Chairman Christopher Hart recognized law enforcement in a blog, [Law Enforcement: Partners in Traffic Safety](#).



EAA Air Venture LOC Talks



Improving general aviation safety is a primary focus for NTSB. That's why Chairman Christopher Hart, Member Earl Weener, aviation safety investigators, and recommendations specialists all made it a point to attend EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, July 25-31. Both Members and staff addressed general aviation pilots about the critical importance of training to avoid stall events that lead to loss of control (LOC), which is the cause of nearly half of all general aviation crashes. Aviation staff also presented on other topics and manned a booth. Thousands of general aviation enthusiasts, pilots, and manufacturers attend this event each year. See our blog, [EAA AirVenture](#).

PTC a Hot Topic During Rail Operator Visit

Member Robert Sumwalt met with BNSF Railway officials to discuss safety practices at the company's Technical Training Center in Overland Park, Kansas. The NTSB was particularly interested in how the operator was implementing positive train control (PTC), an issue on our Most Wanted List, under "[Promote Completion of Rail Safety Initiatives](#)."



HIGHWAY SAFETY

Note: The vast majority of transportation-related deaths occur on our highways. More than 35,000 people died in 2015, up 7.2 percent from 2014, according to recent [NHTSA data](#). This is the biggest increase since 1966.

Member Weener Visits Automakers & Researchers to Discuss Benefits of Collision Avoidance Technologies

To preview the latest collision avoidance technologies and discuss current research on their effectiveness, Member Earl Weener, NTSB safety advocates, and highway safety investigators visited the Big 3 automakers--Ford, GM, and Chrysler--in Detroit and auto safety researchers at the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute and Michigan Mobility Transformation Center. While at the university, they received an up-close demonstration of vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure technology at 'M City,' a unique test facility situated on 32 acres that replicates various roadway conditions drivers might encounter. Member Weener also met with editors and reporters of *Automotive News*, where he discussed the importance of educating consumers about the benefits of collision avoidance



technologies. "[Promote the Availability of Collision Avoidance Technologies in Highway Vehicles](#)" is on NTSB's Most Wanted List. Read our blog, [Getting to Know Crash Avoidance Technologies](#).



Pedestrian Safety Matters - NTSB Forum

In May, Vice Chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr led a Pedestrian Safety Forum, organized by the Office of Highway Safety and the Safety Advocacy Division, to discuss potential causes and solutions for the increasing rate of vehicle-pedestrian accidents. The forum featured an expert panel of government and highway safety leaders from across the country. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 4,884 pedestrians were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2014. Design improvements and tougher laws related to distracted driving/walking, along with technology solutions, can help to counter this trend, according to forum participants. Read our blog, [We Are All Pedestrians](#).

International Road Federation Conference

NTSB Safety Advocacy Chief Nicholas Worrell presented at the International Road Federation's 5th Caribbean Regional Congress, a coalition of transportation safety officials from the Caribbean islands. He discussed U.S. efforts to combat distracted and impaired driving and increase use of occupant protection, and urged them to address road safety culture and driver behavior in order to reach zero roadway fatalities. Read his blog, [Being a Gadfly of Transportation Safety](#).

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

In recognition of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, the NTSB highlighted the importance of wearing a motorcycle helmet in a series of blogs featured throughout May. Staff told their personal stories and experiences related to helmet use and riding, and documented the evolution of motorcycle helmet laws. Motorcycle safety has been a focus of NTSB's advocacy efforts for many years. See our [NTSB blogs](#) in May to read the stories.

Caring About Tire Care

As part of National Tire Safety Awareness Week, May 29-June 4, Safety Advocacy staff and the Office of Highway Safety reminded blog readers in "[Vehicle Safety 101](#)" about the importance of tire maintenance and reissued NTSB's [Tire Safety Alert](#) (updated to include new crash statistics).

YOUTH AND TEEN OUTREACH

Chairman Hart Kicks off SADD Conference

Summer continues to be the deadliest season for teen drivers--and car crashes the leading cause of death for teens in any season. So, as part of the Students Against Destructive Decisions National Conference, SADD hosted the Safe Summer Press Event, "Towards Zero Death Press Conference." This event brought together local, state, and federal partners to talk about what can be done to address this public health crisis. Chairman Christopher Hart kicked it off by urging youth to



"help bring about change in the world by modeling good driving habits." Read one SADD millennial's blog, [Inspired by Tragedy to Make a Difference](#).



Social Media Chat with Virginia HS Students

As part of Global Youth Traffic Safety Month activities, the Safety Advocacy team, along with DRIVE SMART Virginia, Students Against Destructive Decisions, National Organizations for Youth Safety, and Family Career and Community Leaders of America, conducted an interactive teen driving safety awareness event and Twitter chat at Freedom High School in Virginia. The event featured live video

teleconferencing with three high schools across the country, where students discussed their schools' teen safe driving programs. The event also featured Fletcher Cleaves, an athlete paralyzed by a distracted driver, who talked to students via Skype. The day ended with a Twitter chat, in which students used the unique hashtag #1goodchoice to relay one smart choice teens could make to drive more safely.

Influencing Future Leaders

NTSB safety advocates brought NTSB safety messages to youth from 47 states and two territories attending the Family Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference, in San Diego, California. More than 8,000 middle- and high school students, advisors and other highway safety partners participated in the conference, which featured workshops on drunk, drugged, and drowsy driving, and teen driver safety. Hundreds of future leaders stopped by the NTSB booth to pick up fact sheets and postcards about NTSB's Most Wanted List of safety issues.

LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

Members Share Highway Safety Messages with State Reps & Industry



NTSB Vice Chairman Dinh-Zarr and Member Weener with GHSA Chairman Jana Simpler (center)

Vice Chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr, Member Earl Weener, NTSB safety advocates, and highway safety investigators met with staff from state highway safety offices and other highway safety stakeholders at the Governor's Highway Safety Conference in August in Seattle to discuss NTSB safety priorities. The Vice Chairman provided the keynote address at the GHSA awards luncheon. She encouraged attendees to support the adoption of a .05 percent blood alcohol concentration per se impairment level in their home states, highlighted some of the other issues on our Most Wanted List, and stressed the importance of working with states and other organizations to improve traffic safety. While in Seattle, the Vice Chairman also delivered a keynote address during the annual National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders conference, in which she also emphasized lowering the BAC laws to .05. She also attended meetings with harbor safety stakeholders and airplane manufacturers. Member Weener met with area truck fleet operators.

INVESTIGATION UPDATES & SAFETY ALERTS

- **Rail: Derailment of Amtrak Passenger Train 188.** On May 12, 2015, eastbound Amtrak passenger train 188 derailed at milepost 81.62 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The train had just entered the Frankford Junction curve--where the speed is restricted to 50 mph--at 106 mph. MWL safety issues: distraction, PTC, and occupant protection. [Report released 5/17/2016.](#)
- **Aviation: Aerodynamic Stall and Loss of Control During Approach, Embraer EMB-500, N100EQ.** On December 8, 2014, an Embraer EMB-500 airplane crashed while on approach to runway 14 at Montgomery County Airpark (GAI), Gaithersburg, Maryland. The airplane impacted three houses and the ground about 3/4 mile from the approach end of the runway. MWL safety issues: loss of control. [Report released 6/7/2016.](#)

Note: The investigations/reports featured here are not all encompassing of those released during this newsletter timeframe; they merely represent the ones where MWL issues were prominently featured. See our website for [all reports](#) and Safety Alerts.

NEW INITIATIVE: Investigations Lessons Learned

Seeking a way to more quickly and simply relay important safety lessons from often lengthy accident investigation reports, the Safety Advocacy Division launched its "Lessons Learned" social media product line. After each major investigation accident report is issued, the team will release the key lessons learned as they relate to Most Wanted List safety issue areas identified in the accident investigation.

MOST WANTED LIST - PROGRESS REPORT (Hits and Misses)

Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents

- A new report from the Governors Highway Safety Association, [Wake Up Call! Understanding Drowsy Driving and What States Can Do](#), finds that nearly 83.6 million sleep-deprived Americans are driving every day. As a result, an estimated 5,000 lives were lost in drowsy driving-related crashes last year.

Improve Rail Transit Safety Oversight

- The Washington, DC, Metrorail (WMATA) kicked off its SafeTrack program this past summer, which was developed in response to Federal Transit Administration and NTSB safety recommendations. SafeTrack is an accelerated track work plan to rehabilitate the Metrorail system and improve safety and reliability. Poor maintenance and oversight has been the cause of several crashes on this transit rail system in recent years.

Promote Availability of Collision Avoidance Technologies in Highway Vehicles

- Member Earl Weener, highway investigators, and NTSB safety advocates attended the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association's Ride & Drive technology showcase in Washington, DC, to preview the latest in collision avoidance technologies for commercial and passenger vehicles. While there, they discussed with equipment manufacturers and their representatives how best to promote the benefits of these technologies to fleet owners and other consumers.

Strengthen Occupant Protection

- The National Safety Council is calling for uniform child passenger safety practices across multiple modes of transportation, including school buses, airplanes, and personal vehicles. Among these recommendations, the Council urges the installation of lap and shoulder belts on new school buses with proper restraints for children with special needs. The NSC also calls for all children ages 2 and younger to be properly restrained in their own seat on airplanes using an Federal Aviation Administration-approved child restraint device.

Disconnect from Deadly Distractions

- There has been movement of note in three states regarding distraction. A California bill (A.B. 1785) that would prevent the use of all handheld devices while driving awaits the governor's signature. Current law only bans texting. Also, the New Jersey legislature is considering a bill that would make it illegal to conduct "any activity unrelated to the actual operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that interferes with the safe operation of the vehicle on a public road or highway." Two other states have passed a similar law - Utah and Maine. A bill signed in late August by Delaware Gov. Jack Markell increases the penalty for a first offense of texting behind the wheel from \$50 to \$100. It also increases the penalty for subsequent offenses.

Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation

- The Federal Aviation Administration recently issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Part 23, Revision of Airworthiness Standards for Normal, Utility, Acrobatic, and Commuter Category Airplanes](#), which proposes significant changes in the design of new general aviation aircraft and the introduction of new technologies to modernize the general aviation fleet. If adopted, the rule will allow manufacturers to more rapidly introduce new safety technologies, such as angle of attack indicators, that help prevent loss of control accidents. Read our blog, [Part 23 NPRM - A New Horizon](#).

Promote the Completion of Rail Safety Initiatives

- On August 16, the Federal Railroad Administration awarded \$25 million in grants for 11 projects in six states and the District of Columbia to assist in implementing positive train control. The FRA received 30 eligible applications requesting \$90.6 million, nearly four times the \$25 million Congress provided in the appropriations bill that funds FRA for Fiscal Year 2016. Many awards will help railroads achieve interoperability among the different PTC systems that railroads are deploying.

End Substance Impairment in Transportation

- The new Washington state driver's license test will now include questions on marijuana and distraction--for example, questions related to how much THC can appear in the system of a driver who is under 21 and the state law regarding cell phone/texting use.

Require Medical Fitness for Duty

- On July 15, third-class medical reforms became law as part of a Federal Aviation Administration authorization extension. Under the reforms, pilots who have held a valid medical certificate any time in the decade prior to July 15, 2016, may not need to take another FAA medical exam. The 10-year lookback period applies to both regular and special issuance medicals.

Expand Use of Recorders to Enhance Transportation Safety

- On September 1, the U.S. Coast Guard issued [safety alert 12-16](#) to remind vessel owners and operators to periodically validate the proper operation of their vessel's voyage data recorder (VDR). VDR data helps marine investigators during accident reconstruction and can also be highly valuable to vessel owners and operators.

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

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE...(LOOK FOR US HERE!)

Don't miss the announcement of our 2017 Most Wanted List, Nov. 16!

Child Passenger Safety Week & NTSB Social Media Campaign	Sept. 18-24	National Association for Pupil Transportation Annual Summit	Nov. 4-8
DRIVE Smart Virginia - Distracted Driving Summit	Sept. 29-30	National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services	Nov. 5-9
National Teen Driver Safety Week/School Bus Safety Week	Oct. 16-22	Alaska Loss of Control Outreach & Training Event	Nov. 5
NTSB Youth Open House (with DRIVE SMART Virginia)	Oct. 14	National Black Caucus of State Legislators Conference	Nov. 30-Dec. 3
NTSB-NSC Joint Panel Event: Reaching Zero Crashes - A Dialogue on the Role of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems	Oct. 27	SADD Traffic Safety Symposium	Dec. 6

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