

Attention Transportation Safety Colleagues!

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



HIGHLIGHTING NTSB ADVOCACY IN ACTION

VOL 3 ISSUE 2

THE BIG STORIES

New NTSB Chairman Confirmed



On August 3, the U.S. Senate confirmed Robert Sumwalt as NTSB Chairman for a two-year term. For more information on our new Chairman, see his [bio](#).

MWL Progress Report Meeting

The NTSB will bring together advocates, government partners, and other key influencers from across the nation on November 15 for an update on implementation of the NTSB's [Most Wanted List \(MWL\) of transportation safety improvements](#). One advantage of the move to the new two-year MWL format from the previous annual release is the opportunity for a midcycle review of industry and government movement on the 10 issue areas, and the chance to adjust advocacy strategies accordingly. [Register](#) for the meeting or questions can be addressed to SafetyAdvocacy@ntsb.gov.

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Safety Compass Blog Posts You Might Have Missed...

[A Message to the International Aviation Community: Don't Get Complacent](#)

[Don't Drop a Bomb: Secure Your Load](#)

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[Carrollton, Kentucky, 29 Years Later: So Much Work Still to Do](#)

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NTSB to Launch Podcast Series

The Best Days of Their Lives

The NTSB will unveil its first-ever podcast series, "Behind the Scene," this fall. The podcast will feature interviews with Board Members, modal office directors, investigators, and other personnel discussing the investigative process, their careers, their roles at the NTSB, and their perspectives on transportation safety. The podcast will be available on Google Play and iTunes.

GENERAL ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Member Hart and Staff Meet Rail Officials in Boston, Tour Facilities



In July, Member Christopher Hart, railroad accident investigators, and safety recommendations and communications staff toured the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) facilities and met with officials from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (MDPU), which has safety oversight of the MBTA. The outreach was part of the NTSB's efforts to learn the status of recommendations related to issues on the Most Wanted List (MWL)--[rail transit oversight](#) and [collision avoidance technologies](#)--and

to continue building strong relationships with state and local governments charged with rail operations and safety oversight. The NTSB and transit rail officials discussed the MDPU's policies, procedures, and processes regarding rail transit safety oversight and the MBTA's legacy system, daily operations, and some of the work MDPU is doing to make transportation safer. The MBTA also provided an update on how it was implementing positive train control (PTC) throughout its Green Line. As a result of this meeting, we advanced the status of the recommendation we issued to the agency related to PTC to "Open-Acceptable Response." Read the [blog](#) on the visit.

Board Members, Investigators at Popular General Aviation Event

Board Members and several air safety investigators presented at the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA's) AirVenture, held in Oshkosh, Wisc., in July, which reportedly drew record attendance of more than 600,000 EAA members and aviation enthusiasts from 80 countries. In several presentations, Board Member Earl Weener and investigators discussed [loss of control](#) and nonvolatile memory/flight data [recorders](#)--two MWL safety issues. Chairman Robert Sumwalt, along with Member Weener, hosted a meet-and-greet session with pilots. For our complete lineup of presentations, activities, and resources on general aviation safety, see our [special events](#) page.

Board Member, Marine Investigators Talk Recorders with Underwriters

Member Bella Dinh-Zarr and Marine Safety Investigator Michael Kucharski discussed the NTSB investigative process and highlighted the MWL at the annual American Institute for Marine Underwriters Conference in New York in mid-May. Their presentations reached more than 200 institute members. In speaking about expanding recorder use in the marine industry, Member Dinh-Zarr said, "Over the decades, recorders have provided information that would be unobtainable



otherwise, and this information has been vital to preventing future accidents."

Discussing the Safety and Security of Transportation with Eno Fellows

In June, Acting Safety Recommendations and Communications Director Paul Sledzik addressed the 2017 Eno Center for Transportation's Thomas J. O'Bryant Fellows about the important role the NTSB plays in enhancing transportation safety. The Thomas J. O'Bryant Fellowship is designed to provide a professional development opportunity for aspiring transportation specialists.

New Blog Series Reveals General Aviation Investigative Process

In August, Board Member Earl Weener introduced a new NTSB blog series: "Inside the NTSB's General Aviation Investigative Process." The blogs, which are written by NTSB staff, explore how we examine medical, mechanical, and general safety issues in our investigations. Read the [introductory blog](#) on the new series. See our [blog site](#) for all the blogs in this series.

SaferSeas Digest 2016 Highlights MWL Issues



In July, the Office of Marine Safety released a 72-page report that summarized the key findings and lessons learned from all its accident investigations finalized in 2016. The report, [Safer Seas Digest 2016: Lessons Learned from Marine Accident Investigations](#), discusses several accidents in which MWL issues (such as [fatigue](#) and [distraction](#)) contributed to the cause of the accident.

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 [NHTSA data](#). This is the biggest increase since 1966.

NTSB and NSC Host Roundtable on Advanced Safety Tech in Trucks

The barriers and safety benefits of using advanced technology in heavy-duty trucks was the focus of a roundtable discussion hosted by the NTSB and the National Safety Council (NSC) on July 24 in Schaumburg, Ill. "[Increase implementation of collision avoidance technologies](#)" is on the NTSB's Most Wanted List (MWL). Twenty trucking industry professionals, government officials, safety advocates, researchers and others participated in a half-day conversation about strategies to increase the use of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) in heavy-duty trucks and fleets. The roundtable discussion covered the state of ADAS technologies in the trucking industry, driver interactions with the technology, effective strategies for educating and training drivers, government regulation versus voluntary adoption of safety technologies, and challenges to implementing ADAS in heavy-duty fleets and possible solutions. Office of Highway Safety Director Robert Molloy, who co-facilitated the dialogue along with Alex Epstein of NSC, challenged the trucking industry to implement a voluntary agreement to make automatic



Molloy poses questions to roundtable

emergency braking standard on all trucks, just as passenger vehicle automakers did in 2015. Read the [blog](#) for the highlights of the event and view the [webcast](#).

NTSB Study Reiterates that Speed Kills, Offers Countermeasures

Although speeding is one of the most common factors in motor vehicle crashes in the United States, it is an underappreciated problem, involved in about 10,000 highway fatalities each year, according to a [new safety study](#) released by the NTSB in August. More than 112,500 people died in speeding-related U.S. highway crashes from 2005-2014, roughly equal to the number who died in alcohol-involved crashes over the same period. However, speeding gets far less attention, and that's one reason the NTSB produced this study and revealed its results in a special public briefing at the NTSB Board Room and Conference Center on July 25. In addition to identifying the problem, the study listed several ways to set and enforce safer speeds.

Traffic Safety Messaging to the Hispanic Community



In July, Board Member Bella Dinh-Zarr recorded a message in Spanish about traffic safety for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), highlighting infrastructure issues and impaired driving. The recording was part of a training program the IDB is preparing for transportation leaders in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Agency advocates regularly present to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, conduct media interviews with Spanish-language media outlets, and utilize social media, such as Twitter, to share traffic safety messages in Spanish.

NTSB IIC Promotes Collision Avoidance Tech at MEMA & Fleet Safety Conference

Highway Safety Investigator-in-Charge Jennifer Morrison was a featured presenter at two events: the Motor Equipment Manufacturers Association's (MEMA's) Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., in May, and the Fleet Safety Conference in Schaumburg, Ill., in July. Morrison discussed the benefits of collision avoidance technologies and encouraged wider adoption in commercial vehicles. She also highlighted the value of recorders in accident investigations. At the MEMA event, she was part of a panel discussion with original equipment manufacturers and association executives. At the Fleet Safety Conference, Morrison moderated a panel featuring academic research and a business case study showing return on investment from fleet-wide incorporation of advanced driver assistance systems.



Morrison (L) with Fred Andersky, of Bendix, and Mike Cammisa, of American Trucking Associations

International Road Federation Conference

In May, Safety Advocacy Division Chief Nicholas Worrell presented to transportation leaders attending the International Road Federation's 6th Caribbean Congress. Worrell emphasized the "service" part of civil service in his talk and shared what the NTSB has learned in promoting



action for safer driving and safer roads. He reminded the coalition of Caribbean transportation safety officials that, although they are passionate about reducing crashes, they can look to other examples from across the world for ideas and partnerships.

Encouraging VA, TX, and GA Highway Safety Professionals

Member Bella Dinh-Zarr served as the keynote speaker at the Virginia Highway Safety Summit in Richmond in May, the Texas Traffic Safety Conference in Las Colinas in June, and the Georgia Highway Safety Conference in Savannah in August. Her presentations focused on issues where the states' and the NTSB's priorities overlap, including areas on the NTSB's MWL related to [impaired driving](#) and [occupant protection](#), as well as our advocacy efforts related to pedestrian safety and speeding.

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

In recognition of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May, the NTSB highlighted the importance of wearing a motorcycle helmet and general riding safety in a series of blogs. Motorcycle safety has been a focus of the NTSB's advocacy efforts for many years, and has been included on the MWL. Read a crash investigator's [blog](#) on motorcycle safety and another staff member's [perspective](#) on what it means to "ride your own ride."



Independence Day Safe Driving Campaign

In a Fourth-of-July social media campaign targeting the general public, the NTSB urged those celebrating not to forget their freedom to make smart driving choices. Safety advocates utilized Instagram and Twitter with messages such as this one below:



YOUTH AND TEEN OUTREACH

NTSB at SADD and FCCLA Conference, Honored for Teen Work

Summer continues to be the deadliest season for teen drivers, and car crashes the leading cause of death for teens in any season. To raise awareness about this issue, the NTSB addressed youth at two national annual conferences over the summer: the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) National Conference, held in June, and the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership Conference, held in July. To kick off its conference, SADD hosted the Safe Summer Press Event, "Towards Zero Death Press Conference," to talk about what can be done to address highway-related crash fatalities, a public health crisis. Member Christopher Hart delivered remarks to youth, urging them to "help bring about change in the world by modeling good driving habits." While there, Safety Advocacy Chief Nicholas Worrell accepted the SADD 2017 Outstanding Contribution Award for NTSB's work promoting teen driving safety. At the FCCLA conference, NTSB Safety Advocate Stephanie Shaw hosted a session to raise awareness of teens' risk of being involved in drowsy driving crashes.



Legislative Advocacy Training for Students



On July 28, the Safety Advocacy Division hosted interns from the Department of Transportation and youth from SADD's Students for Policy, Education, Advocacy & Knowledge at the NTSB Training Center, where they learned tactics and strategies to effectively advocate for safety legislation impacting teens and how to prepare for meetings with state legislative representatives.

Preparing Communities to Go Back to School

Safety advocates and highway safety investigators kicked off the new school year reminding communities to keep student safety at the forefront. In August, safety advocacy staff shared lessons learned from investigations and school bus safety tips with more than 300 school bus drivers in Loudoun County, Va., and teamed up with the Office of Highway Safety to host a webinar on fatigue and teens. (See "Progress Report" for more details). The NTSB also released two blogs highlighting safe travel to/from school, [Back to School Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety](#) and [Back-to-School Tips for Teen Drivers](#).

Global Youth Traffic Safety Month Activities

Board Members, safety advocates, investigators, and staff participated in several events and activities in May designed to raise awareness for Global Youth Traffic Safety Month.

- Safety Advocacy staff teamed up with SADD and victims advocates to conduct an interactive teen driving safety



awareness event and Twitter chat at Freedom High School in Virginia.

Worrell at Freedom HS

- NTSB Highway Safety Investigator Kenneth Bragg, a former Prince George's County, Md., police officer, addressed youth at Chantilly High School in Virginia about traffic safety issues, such as distraction.
- Students in the 11th and 12th grades at Glen Burnie High School in Maryland worked with Safety Advocate Stephanie Shaw to develop a webpage for teens and their parents that highlighted sleep facts and provided tips on how and why teens should get more sleep.
- Safety Advocacy staff collaborated with the Prince George's County Police, Md., and National Organizations for Youth Safety to host a one-on-one training and education seminar related to safe driving practices for a group of county high school students.
- Safety Advocacy Chief Nicholas Worrell facilitated a teen driving safety session during the Hugh O'Brian Youth World Leadership Congress in Chicago.

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

LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

- **August 14:** State and Local Liaison Steve Blackistone provided an update on NTSB investigations to the Transportation Committee of the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference.
- **August 10:** State and Local Liaison Steve Blackistone briefed the Native American Caucus of State Legislators about the NTSB's Most Wanted List and other traffic safety issues of concern.
- **August 2:** Aviation Safety Deputy Director Dana Schulze updated congressional staffers on the ongoing investigation of the Air Canada jet near miss at San Francisco International Airport.
- **18:** Board Member Bella Dinh-Zarr testified before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit regarding improving the safety of the nation's roads.
- **June 19 and 22:** Office of Highway Safety Director Robert Molloy updated House and Senate staff on the ongoing investigation of the Williston, Fla., Tesla crash.
- **June 6:** Texas Gov. Greg Abbot signed HB 62 to ban texting while driving statewide, an initiative supported by the NTSB.
- **May 25:** Aviation Safety Investigator Bill English updated Senate staff on the ongoing investigation of the Lockhart, Texas, balloon accident.
- **May 25:** Office of Highway Safety Director Robert Molloy discussed automated vehicles as part of a panel event hosted by the Congressional Research Service for congressional staff.



Blackistone at NACSL July

INVESTIGATION UPDATES & SAFETY ALERTS

- **Marine Accident Brief:** [Collision and Subsequent Sinking of Towing Vessel Specialist](#). Adopted May 11, 2017 (MWL issue: Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents)
- **Marine Accident Brief:** [Capsizing and Sinking of Fishing Vessel Lydia & Maya](#). Adopted May 25, 2017 (MWL issue: Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents and End Alcohol and Drug Impairment in Transportation)
- **Rail Accident Brief:** [BNSF Railway Unit Ethanol Train Derailment](#). Adopted June 26, 2017 (MWL issue: Ensure Safe Shipment of HAZMAT)
- **Rail Accident Brief:** [Collision of Two Arkansas & Missouri Railroad Trains Brentwood, Arkansas](#). Adopted May 25, 2017 (MWL issue: Increase Implementation of Collision Avoidance)

Technologies)

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](#).

MOST WANTED LIST - PROGRESS REPORT (Hits and Misses)

Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents

- In August, the NTSB hosted a webinar, "Wake Up to Teen Drowsy Driving," which was viewed by more than 100 teens, parents, community advocates, and school officials. Jana Price, PhD, a senior human performance investigator with the NTSB's Office of Highway Safety; Terry Cralle, MS, RN, Certified Clinical Sleep Educator; and Merrill S. Wise, MD, a neurologist specializing in pediatric and adult sleep medicine at the Methodist Healthcare Sleep Disorders Center in Memphis, Tenn., provided an overview of teens and sleep, defined sleep debt, highlighted drowsy driving-related crashes involving young drivers, and offered solutions and preventative measures. View the [recording](#) or read the [blog](#) related to this webinar.

Improve Rail Transit Safety Oversight

- On August 22, President Donald Trump signed legislation approving the creation of the Metro Safety Commission, a safety watchdog organization giving Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., primary responsibility for safety oversight of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro railway). The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) had been overseeing safety on the rail system since late 2015, following a series of incidents and accidents investigated by the NTSB.
- In an August 18 letter to the NTSB, the FTA announced it plans to issue a general directive that would require all state safety oversight agencies to direct rail transit agencies to periodically test the performance of all of their rail transit vehicle braking systems to detect potential latent system failures. The agency was responding to an NTSB recommendation issued to the FTA following the January 4 Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority trolley collision in Philadelphia.

Increase Implementation of Collision Avoidance Technologies

- Volvo Trucks USA [announced](#) in July that Volvo Active Driver Assist is now standard equipment on the new Volvo VNR and VNL series vehicles. Volvo Active Driver Assist includes Bendix Wingman Fusion, a comprehensive, camera- and radar-based collision mitigation system that is fully integrated with Volvo's driver information display. Volvo is the first heavy-duty truck original equipment manufacturer to offer Bendix Wingman Fusion as standard equipment.
- August 1 was the first full effective date for all newly manufactured 3-axle truck-tractors to have electronic stability control (ESC) installed. The NTSB has long recommended ESC on all commercial vehicles; it is a foundation technology for any collision avoidance system. Read the [final rule](#).

Strengthen Occupant Protection

- In May, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) published "Seat Belt Use in 2016-Use Rates in the States and Territories," in its Traffic Safety Facts ([DOT HS 812 417](#)). NHTSA found that the nationwide seat belt use rate was 90.1 percent in 2016. Seat belt use in the United States ranged from 70.2 percent (New Hampshire) to 97.2 percent (Georgia). Nineteen states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands achieved belt use rates of 90 percent or higher.

Eliminate Distractions

- Washington Gov. Jay Inslee required law enforcement and other state officials to begin enforcing the state's new [Driving Under the Influence of Electronics \(DUIE\) Act](#) on July 23, instead of the originally proposed date of January 1, 2019. The law forbids use of handheld gadgets such as phones, tablets, laptop computers, and gaming devices while driving.
- In a [paper](#) published August 15 in *Scientific Data*, researchers from the University of Houston and Texas A&M Transportation Institute examined how drivers react to different types of distractions as part of an effort to devise strategies for making driving safer.

Ensure the Safe Shipment of Hazardous Materials

- In June, as a result of its investigation of a BNSF Railway unit ethanol train derailment near [Lesterville, S.D.](#), the NTSB recommended the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) include the increased derailment risks associated with Class 1 track, the relationship between the weight of the railcars and the weight of the rail, and the potential failure of legacy U.S. Department of Transportation-111 tank cars during derailments in the list of items for railroads to consider when determining the routes for high-hazard flammable trains or high-hazard flammable unit trains. The NTSB also recommended PHMSA work with the Federal Railroad Administration to develop specific guidance for railroads when using the list in their risk assessments and apply the information gathered in those assessments when analyzing proposed routes for high-hazard flammable trains or high-hazard flammable unit trains.

End Alcohol and Other Drug Impairment in Transportation

- Legalizing recreational marijuana use in Colorado, Oregon, and Washington has resulted in about 3 percent higher collision claim frequencies than expected without legalization, according to a [new Highway Loss Data Institute \(HLDI\) analysis](#). This is HLDI's first report on how marijuana legalization since 2014 has affected crashes reported to insurers.

Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation

- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Safety Alert for Operators ([SAFO 17009](#)) on May 30, entitled "Airman Certification Standards (ACS): Slow Flight and Stalls," revising evaluation standards for certain tasks on the private pilot-airplane and commercial pilot-airplane practical tests. To avoid confusion, the FAA has cancelled SAFO 16010.

Require Medical Fitness

- On August 4, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) [announced](#) they were withdrawing the March 10, 2016, advance notice of proposed rulemaking concerning the prevalence and consequences of moderate-to-severe obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) among individuals occupying safety-sensitive positions in highway and rail transportation. The NTSB released a statement saying it was disappointed by the FMCSA's and the FRA's decision. OSA has been in the probable cause of 10 highway and rail accidents investigated by the NTSB in the past 17 years, and it is an issue being examined in several ongoing NTSB rail and highway investigations.

Expand Recorder Use to Enhance Safety

- Airbus [announced](#) in June it would implement new fixed and deployable flight recorders for Airbus's airliner programs. The new devices will come in two versions: a fixed crash-protected cockpit voice and data recorder (CVDR), capable of recording up to 25 hours of voice and flight data on a single recorder, and an automatic deployable flight recorder. This new CVDR will be lighter and more compact and will include more versatile interfaces than the current generation of recorders. The new CVDR answers the European Aviation Safety Agency and International Civil Aviation Organization requirement to extend the duration of

voice recording to 25 hours (the current requirement calls for a duration of 2 hours of voice recording).

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

NTSB Board Meeting - Tesla Crash/ NTSB Board Room & Conference Center; Washington, DC	Sep 12	NTSB Board Meeting - Lockhart Balloon Crash/NTSB Board Room & Conference Center; Washington, DC	Oct 17
Governor's Highway Safety Administration Annual Meeting/Louisville, KY	Sep 17	MIGRATION Redbird Simulator Conference/Oshkosh, WI	Oct 17
DRIVE SMART 5th Annual Distracted Driving Summit/Norfolk, VA	Sep 28	NTSB Youth Open House/NTSB Board Room & Conference Center; Washington, DC	Oct 19
NOYS Youth Interactive Traffic Safety Lab/Fort Washington, MD	Oct 16	Midyear MWL Progress Report Meeting for Advocates/NTSB Board Room & Conference Center; Washington, DC	Nov 15

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