

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 3

THE BIG STORIES

Come see us at [TRB](#), Jan. 9 in Washington, DC!

New 2017-18 Most Wanted List Announced



On Nov. 17, the NTSB unveiled its new [Most Wanted List](#) of transportation safety improvements. Until this year, the list was revised annually, but the new list will span two years, 2017 and 2018, in order to allow more time to advocate for and make progress on these very challenging issues. The items on the list address a variety of issues that, if addressed, can significantly improve transportation safety. The new list includes:

- Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents
- Expand Recorder Use to Enhance Safety
- Increase Implementation of Collision Avoidance Technologies
- Strengthen Occupant Protection
- Eliminate Distractions
- Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation

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Blogs You Might Have Missed...

[What if a Trucker Just Breaks the Rules?](#)

[NTSB Takes Safety Message to North Carolina's Catawba County Youth](#)

[The Safest Generation](#)

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[Which Child Safety Seat is the Right One for You?](#)

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- Ensure the Safe Shipment of Hazardous Materials
- End Alcohol and Other Drug Impairment in Transportation
- Require Medical Fitness
- Improve Rail Transit Safety Oversight

Want more?
SUBSCRIBE to our
blogs!

See our blog, [The NTSB's Most Wanted List . . . And You.](#)

School Bus Safety: NTSB Video Explains Design, Importance of Seat Belts

In early November, Chairman Christopher Hart introduced our first safety video on school bus safety to the National Association for Pupil Transportation Annual Summit and the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services Annual Conference, both held in Kansas City, Missouri. The "School Bus Safety" video discusses how school buses are the safest mode of transportation for students traveling to and from school and school-related activities. The video features NTSB's Kris Poland, a biomechanical engineer, who discusses recent investigations, highlights the benefits of compartmentalization, and promotes the enhanced safety benefit of lap/shoulder belts on school buses. The NTSB also unveiled a [new school bus safety resource page](#), where you can also find the video, on the NTSB's website.



GENERAL ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Alaska Pilots Learn How to Avoid Loss of Control

The NTSB joined the Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation in hosting a training and outreach event for nearly 100 pilots in Alaska about how to prevent loss of control in flight. Board Member Earl Weener, Safety Advocate Amy Terrone, and NTSB aviation safety investigators from both Alaska and Washington, DC, discussed the events that can lead to loss of control, including stalls, and highlighted lessons learned from accident investigations. From 2011 through September 2016, the NTSB investigated 76 general aviation accidents in Alaska involving loss of control in flight that resulted in 31 fatalities and 38 injuries. "[Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation](#)" is on the NTSB's Most Wanted List.



Board Members & Aviation Staff Address Business Aviation Community

Three board members--Chairman Christopher Hart, Member Earl Weener, and Member Robert Sumwalt--along with Office of Aviation Safety Director John Delisi and aviation safety investigators, presented at the National Business Aviation Association's Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition Nov. 1-3 in Orlando, Florida. Among the largest trade shows in the United States, this event brought together more than 27,000 current and prospective aircraft owners, manufacturers and customers to discuss business aviation safety. Chairman Hart opened the National Safety Forum. Member Sumwalt joined a panel discussing professionalism and fitness for duty. Member Weener discussed operational aspects of risk management and provided case studies during the Single-Pilot Safety Standdown. All touched on our Most Wanted List of transportation safety improvements.

Raising the Bar on Safety - Safety Leadership Symposium & Workshop

Member Robert Sumwalt joined other national safety leaders on Sept. 22 in [addressing attendees](#) at the Institute for Supply Management (ISM)-Houston's Safety Leadership Symposium and Workshop about the importance of putting safety first. Member Sumwalt encouraged attendees to strengthen their safety culture and to not "just make safety a priority, but make it a core value." The ISM program was designed to provide practical, hands-on tools that safety leaders could use to immediately raise the bar on safety in their companies.

Recorders and Women Pilots

In October, Vice Chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr [addressed](#) the Mid-Atlantic Section of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of women pilots. She spoke about the role of the NTSB in promoting aviation safety, discussed recent board meetings, and highlighted the Most Wanted List issue "[Expand Use of Recorders to Enhance Transportation Safety](#)," especially the importance of cockpit video, voice and data recorders. She encouraged pilots to support the installation of recorders in every aircraft.

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.

NTSB & NSC Team Up to Promote Collision Avoidance Technologies



On Oct. 27, the NTSB and the National Safety Council (NSC) hosted an all-day panel and roundtable advocacy event designed to educate consumers about the benefits of collision avoidance technologies in passenger vehicles. The event, held in Washington, DC, featured 17 speakers from industry, government, academia and the media, who each discussed how their organizations were working to research, promote, and advocate for collision avoidance technologies. The primary technologies discussed included collision warning, autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning, and blind-spot detection. The panel universally agreed that these technologies save lives and reduce injuries, and that they help drivers avoid collisions. Board Member Earl Weener and NSC President Deborah Hersman opened and closed the event. "[Promote the Availability of Collision Avoidance Technologies in Highway Vehicles](#)" was an issue area included on the Most Wanted List in 2016 and is again a focus area on the [2017-2018 list](#). See our blog on [Helping Consumers Understand Collision Avoidance Technologies](#) for more information.

Addressing Traffic Safety Employers about Impairment, Other MWL

Vice Chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr gave a [keynote address](#) at the 2016 Network of Employers for Traffic Safety Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, in October about crash investigations, safety recommendations, Most Wanted List (MWL), and how employers can help make the transportation system safer. The Vice Chairman focused her remarks on the MWL issues that relate to motor vehicle safety and spoke in-depth about impaired driving, and the importance and impact of lowering the blood alcohol content level from .08 to .05.

Spreading the Message to Major Retail Truckers

Member Earl Weener was the keynote speaker at the National Private Truck Council's Safety Conference on Sept. 15. He [presented](#) the Most Wanted List items relevant to the trucking industry--including fatigue, collision avoidance technologies, recorders, and impairment--to more than 200 company safety directors and managers. Member Weener encouraged a continued focus on safety culture and shared lessons learned from aviation in implementing collision avoidance technologies.

NTSB Truck Safety Tip Card



For Operation Safe Driver week in October, the NTSB released a [truck safety tip card](#) that highlights six safety problems truck drivers encounter that could lead to crashes. The tips were derived from lessons learned in NTSB accident investigations over the years.

YOUTH AND TEEN OUTREACH

NTSB Shows Support for National Teen Driver Safety Week

The NTSB participated in a variety of events and activities related to National Teen Driver Safety Week, which occurred Oct. 17-21, including taking part in a social media campaign and Twitter chats throughout the week reaching out to youth. Here are some of the highlights:

- To kick off the week, on Oct. 17, Chairman Christopher Hart addressed youth from Maryland and Washington, DC, during the annual National Organizations for Youth Safety Interactive Traffic Safety Lab. Teens rotated through various stations, exhibits, and speaker sessions to gain experience and strategies for addressing the risks of driving and promoting safe driving behaviors to parents, community members and policymakers.
- The NTSB and Drive Smart Virginia hosted the 6th Annual Youth Open House and Education Day at the NTSB Training Center in Ashburn, Virginia. NTSB Managing Director Thomas Zoeller addressed more than 175 teens from Virginia-area schools. The open house featured panel discussions by NTSB investigators, researchers, and advocates; distracted driving youth advocates; Virginia law enforcement officers; and victims of traffic crashes. The NTSB's Dr. Mary Pat McKay discussed how medications can impair driving. Students were able to test a



Youth Open House

driving simulator, which highlighted the dangers of texting while driving. Read the [blog](#) on the event.

- Safety Advocates Stephanie Shaw and Leah Walton visited two Maryland schools in October as part of the Ford Driving Skills for Life Traffic Safety Fairs programs. Hundreds of students visited the NTSB booth, where they learned about the dangers of distraction, impairment and fatigue, and participated in NTSB's #1goodchoice social media campaign. Students visiting the booth also tested out "drunk goggles" to see the visual effects of various stages of impairment by drugs and alcohol.

The Importance of Driver's Education Teachers

NTSB Safety Advocates Stephanie Shaw and Amy Terrone briefed drivers' education teachers at the Virginia Association for Driver Education and Traffic Safety's annual conference in early October about issues on the NTSB's Most Wanted List of transportation safety improvements. They discussed the results of accident investigations involving teens, encouraged tougher graduated licensing laws, and stressed the importance of the driver educator's role in highway safety.

Looking for Safety Leaders at National Black Caucus Event



Safety Advocate Chief Nicholas Worrell urged youth leaders at the National Black Caucus of State Legislators 40th Annual Legislative Conference to keep safety a priority when driving. He encouraged them to advocate safety among their peers. Check out our [blog](#) on the visit.

LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

Highway Director Hits the Road to Discuss Distraction, Collision Avoid Tech

NTSB Office of Highway Safety Director Robert Molloy encouraged stronger laws to combat distraction and stressed the importance of collision avoidance technologies before lawmakers in November. He testified before the New Jersey General Assembly Committee on Transportation and Independent Authorities about NTSB's recommendations addressing distracted driving. New Jersey is considering a bill that would expand the already enacted handheld and texting ban to prohibit a driver from engaging in any activity that interferes with safe vehicle operation. Molloy also addressed members of Congress on Capitol Hill in a briefing hosted by the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America about collision avoidance technologies and its role in improving safety.



Molloy on Capitol Hill

INVESTIGATION UPDATES & SAFETY ALERTS

- **Aviation:** [Crash During Nonprecision Instrument Approach to Landing Execuflight Flight 1526 British Aerospace HS 125-700A, N237WR \(Akron, Ohio\)](#). MWL safety issue: loss of control. Findings released 10/18/16.

- **Highway:** [Multivehicle Work Zone Crash on Interstate 75 \(Chattanooga, Tennessee\)](#). MWL safety issues: fatigue and impairment. Findings released 10/17/16.
- **Highway:** [School Bus Roadway Departure \(Anaheim, California\)](#). MWL safety issues: medical fitness and occupant protection. Findings released 10/11/16.
- **Rail:** [Derailment of WMATA Metrorail Train in Interlocking \(Falls Church, Virginia\)](#). MWL safety issue: rail oversight. Findings released 12/1/16.
- **Safety Alert:** [Prevent Midair Collisions: Don't Depend on Vision Alone \(SA-058\)](#). MWL safety issue: loss of control. Released November 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.

MOST WANTED LIST - PROGRESS REPORT (Hits and Misses)

Reduce Fatigue-Related Accidents

- A new [study](#) by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety released in December found that drivers who usually sleep for less than five hours daily, drivers who have slept for less than seven hours in the past 24 hours, and drivers who have slept for one or more hours less than their usual amount of sleep in the past 24 hours have significantly elevated crash rates. The estimated rate ratio for crash involvement associated with driving after only 4-5 hours of sleep, compared with seven hours or more, is similar to the U.S. government's estimates of the risk associated with driving with a blood alcohol concentration equal to or slightly above the legal limit in the United States.
- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's [final rule](#) on electronic logging devices went into effect on Dec. 18. The rule is intended to help create a safer work environment for drivers and to make it easier and faster to accurately track, manage and share records of duty status data. An ELD synchronizes with a vehicle engine to automatically record driving time for easier, more accurate hours-of-service recording. The rule applies to most carriers and drivers who are required to maintain records of duty status.

Improve Rail Transit Safety Oversight

- On Dec. 2, NTSB Chairman Christopher Hart testified at a joint subcommittee meeting of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform about the July 29, 2016, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) derailment at the East Falls Church Station in Virginia. He reiterated the NTSB's recommendation that federal safety oversight of WMATA could be accomplished more quickly and effectively by the Federal Railroad Administration, rather than the Federal Transit Administration.

Promote Availability of Collision Avoidance Technologies in Highway Vehicles

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a [proposed rule](#) on Dec. 15 that would advance the deployment of connected vehicle technologies throughout the U.S. light vehicle fleet. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking would enable vehicle-to-vehicle communication technology on all new light-duty vehicles, enabling a multitude of new crash-avoidance applications that, once fully deployed, could prevent hundreds of thousands of crashes every year by helping vehicles "talk" to each other.
- The University of Iowa released [new research](#) in December that indicated how drivers' knowledge of and attitudes toward advanced driver assistance technologies improve after exposure to one of four learning methods about the technologies. The study involved 120 drivers ages 30 to 55 years with no prior experience of five advanced driver assistance systems: adaptive cruise control, blind-spot monitor, lane keeping assist, parallel parking assist and rear cross traffic alert.

Strengthen Occupant Protection

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a [final rule](#) on Nov. 28 to require lap/shoulder seat belts for each passenger seating position in all new over-the-road buses and in new buses other than over-the-road buses with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 11,793 kilograms. By requiring passenger lap/shoulder belts, this rule significantly reduces the risk of death and serious injury in frontal crashes. This has been an NTSB recommendation since the 1970s.
- According to a [survey](#) by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Center for Statistics and Analysis, seat belt use in 2016 reached 90.1 percent, up from 88.5 percent in 2015. Seat belt use has shown an increasing trend since 2000, accompanied by a steady decline in the percentage of unrestrained passenger vehicle (PV) occupants killed during the daytime.

Disconnect from Deadly Distractions

- On Nov. 23, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [proposed guidelines](#) designed to address driver distraction caused by mobile and other electronic devices. This announcement marked the second phase of these voluntary guidelines (the first focused on devices or systems built into the vehicle).
- On Sept. 26, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 1785, significantly expanding California's restrictions on the use of mobile phones behind the wheel. The measure forbids drivers from "holding and operating" their devices for any reason, though it does include an exception for functions that require only "the motion of a single swipe or tap of the driver's finger," as long as the phone is mounted on the windshield or dashboard of the car.

Prevent Loss of Control in Flight in General Aviation

- The Federal Aviation Administration issued a [final](#) rule on Dec. 16 that overhauls airworthiness standards for small general aviation airplanes. This rule will reduce the time it takes to move safety-enhancing technologies for small airplanes, such as angle-of-attack indicators, into the marketplace and will also reduce costs for the aviation industry. Certain technologies available today can help prevent crashes caused by LOC.

Promote the Completion of Rail Safety Initiatives

- On Nov. 28, the Federal Railroad Administration released third quarter 2016 [data](#) submitted by railroads on their progress implementing positive train control. The data show uneven progress across the country and across railroads toward activating this lifesaving technology. Freight railroads now have active PTC on 12 percent of their tracks, up from 9 percent last quarter. Passenger railroads increased their percentage to 23 percent this quarter compared with 22 percent last quarter.

End Substance Impairment in Transportation

- A [final rule](#), effective Jan. 4, 2017, establishes an online national drug and alcohol clearinghouse tracking commercial truck and bus driver violations. The clearinghouse, established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, will contain records of drug and alcohol violations by commercial driver's license holders.

Require Medical Fitness for Duty

- The Federal Railroad Administration on Dec. 3 issued [Safety Advisory 2016-03](#) which contains recommendations related to inward- and outward-facing cameras, sleep apnea testing, and operating practices. The FRA suggests railroads establish training and

educational programs to inform employees of the potential for performance impairment as a result of fatigue, sleep loss, sleep deprivation, inadequate sleep quality, and working at odd hours, and ensure that employees' medical examinations include assessment and screening for possible sleep disorders and other associated medical conditions (including use of appropriate checklists and records). The Safety Alert was issued following a New Jersey transit train accident on Sept. 29.

Expand Use of Recorders to Enhance Transportation Safety

- On Dec. 13, the NTSB released to the public the transcript from the El Faro's voyage data recorder bridge audio as part of the agency's [ongoing investigation](#) into the maritime tragedy. The work to locate, then review and assess the VDR was the most extensive ever done by NTSB as it relates to recorder recovery and analysis, and reiterates the value of recorders on marine vessels for assessing accident causation.
- On Nov. 28, Transport Canada put forth a request for proposals to study whether it would be feasible to develop a standard requiring commercial passenger buses to be equipped with dedicated crashworthy event data recorders. Following the investigation into a commuter bus and train collision in September 2013, the Transportation Safety Board made a number of recommendations, including that such a standard be developed. The NTSB has recommended such a standard since 1999.

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

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

Transportation Research Board Annual Conference (Washington, DC)	Jan. 8-12	HAI Heli Expo (Dallas, TX)	Mar. 6-9
Denton's 2017 Aviation Symposium (McLean, VA)	Feb. 7-9	10th International Conference on Managing Fatigue (San Diego, CA)	Mar. 20-23
United Motorcoach Association - Motorcoach Expo 2017 (St. Louis, MO)	Feb. 26-Mar. 2	Lifesavers 2017 Conference (Charlotte, NC)	Mar. 26-28

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