



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** December 14, 2015

**In reply refer to:** H-15-44

Dr. Walter G. Bumphus  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Association of Community Colleges  
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The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On November 17, 2015, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its report concerning the September 26, 2014, crash in which a Peterbilt truck-tractor in combination with a Great Dane semitrailer, operated by Quickway Transportation Inc., collided with a Champion Defender 32-passenger medium-size bus on Interstate 35, near Davis, Oklahoma.<sup>1</sup> The truck-tractor departed the roadway, traveled more than 1,100 feet across the median without evidence of braking or steering, entered the southbound lanes of traffic, and collided with the bus—which was transporting 15 members of the North Central Texas College softball team. As a result of the crash, four passengers on the bus were fully or partially ejected and died, and both drivers and the remaining passengers were injured. Additional information about this crash and the resulting recommendations may be found at our website, [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov), under report number NTSB/HAR-15/03.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Truck-Tractor Semitrailer Median Crossover Collision With Medium-Size Bus on Interstate 35, Davis, Oklahoma,, September 26, 2014*, Highway Accident Report NTSB/HAR-15/03 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2015).

As a result of this investigation, we issued seven new recommendations, including two to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; one to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); one to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); one to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; one to five motor carrier industry stakeholders; and the following recommendation to the AACC:

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Urge your members to adopt and follow the National Collegiate Athletic Association's *Safety in Student Transportation: A Resource Guide for Colleges and Universities*.

As a result of this investigation, we also reiterated five previously issued recommendations to NHTSA and two each to the FHWA and to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. In addition, we superseded one previously issued recommendation to the governors and legislatures of the 50 states, the US Territories, and the District of Columbia.

This safety recommendation is derived from the NTSB's investigation and is consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Chairman HART, Vice Chairman DINH-ZARR, and Members SUMWALT and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov).

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,  
Chairman