



U.S. Department
of Transportation
National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

NHTSA NOW

Volume 6, No. 10

September 25, 2000

Dr. Sue Bailey Joins NHTSA As 11th Administrator



August 21, 2000. Washington, DC. President Clinton named Dr. Sue Bailey to head NHTSA on August 3, 2000. She assumed the role of Administrator on August 21st.

Before joining NHTSA, Dr. Bailey served at the Department of Defense as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) since 1998.

Dr. Bailey was the first woman to lead the Military Health System, responsible for the health of 8.2 million military personnel and the \$16 billion Defense Health Program. Dr. Bailey has extensive experience in all facets of medical policy, planning, administration and healthcare delivery.

Dr. Bailey has a B.S. degree from the University of Maryland and a D.O. Degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her internship and served in residence at George Washington University and completed a Medical Post Graduate Fellowship at Johns Hopkins

University. She completed additional specialty courses in Emergency Medicine at Howard University, Internal Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Psychiatry and Neurology at Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Bailey began her Navy career during medical school in the 1970's, and included active duty assignments at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Philadelphia Naval Hospital. Dr. Bailey achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander prior to her appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Clinical Services).

Dr. Bailey has three grown children and two grandchildren. ■

Statement by U.S. Transportation Secretary Slater on Bridgestone/Firestone Recall

Wednesday, September 6, 2000. During one of the largest tire safety recalls in history, we at the U.S. Department of Transportation have further strengthened our efforts to alert consumers expeditiously about the status of our safety defect investigation and to work with tire and vehicle manufacturers to better protect the public. This has already resulted in a consumer advisory from the Department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) just before Labor Day regarding our concerns about the higher rates of failure in an additional 1.4 million tires.



The Bridgestone/Firestone recall reinforces the extent to which we will face new challenges in transportation in the 21st century and new millennium in this global economy. The Department is committed to developing new ways of obtaining and discovering safety defect information from all possible sources — including data from service actions in other countries as well as from litigation and claims — so that we can identify potential motor vehicle, motor vehicle equipment and tire safety defects as early as humanly possible. We are reviewing several possible

actions within our existing authority.

As Dr. Sue Bailey, NHTSA Administrator, expressed so well in today's hearings, we will work closely with Congress on any necessary legislative initiatives in the near future.

We will continue to keep the public informed of our findings as we expeditiously continue our on-going investigation. Likewise, the Department will continue to monitor the on-going recall to assure that suitable replacements are provided as promptly as possible.

Dr. Bailey and I look forward to working with Congress to ensure that NHTSA has the resources and tools to make highway travel the safest possible for American motorists. Safety is and remains President Clinton and Vice President Gore's highest transportation priority — the North Star by which we are guided and willing to be judged. ■

It's Back To School For Secretary Slater and Deputy Administrator Rosalyn Millman

September 12, 2000. Sligo Creek Elementary School. Silver Spring, MD. The year old school was the ideal setting for a news conference that featured Secretary Slater, Deputy Administrator Rosalyn Millman, a class of 4th graders, and the school's principal and the community superintendent. The message of the day was transportation safety for students; particularly getting to and from school safely.

Secretary Slater enjoyed interacting with the students, asking them for a show of hands for those interested in a future career in transportation. All hands shot up. "How many of you are interested in being a pilot?" he asked. No takers. "No one is interested in being a pilot? How about a tugboat operator?" That got a few responses. "How about being Secretary of Transportation?" Again, all hands. "I'm just keeping the seat warm," he smiled.

Aside from the good-natured tone of the news event, the Secretary and Deputy Administrator Millman delivered an important message about the top 10 things children can do to be safe and the top 5 dangers children face going to and from school. The students joined Secretary Slater and Ms. Millman at three "safety stations" set up nearby to illustrate school bus safety, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and the safest way of traveling in a car.

One of the posters drawn by a student sent the message that a baby should never ride in the front seat. "Where should children ride?" asked Secretary Slater. "In the back!" shouted the kids, prompting a round of applause.

Sligo Creek Elementary School Principal Dr. Mike Martirano graciously hosted the event, which was chosen for its emphasis on

safety. When the school was remodeled from a high school into an elementary school in 1999, a new sidewalk, a new traffic pattern and a new stop sign was erected to protect students coming to and going home from school.



Secretary Slater at the school bus "safety station."



As further testament to the role safety plays in the school, TSP Associate Administrator Rose McMurray asked one of the 4th graders if she learned a lot about getting to and from school safely. Her answer was, "not really, we already know a lot about this stuff."

Following the safety demonstrations, as Secretary Slater was departing, he thanked the students for making the event a success, and reminded them that he's "only keeping the seat warm." ■

Deputy Administrator Rosalyn Millman speaks at the Getting Back to School Safely News Event September 12, 2000.



The Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) is celebrating its 20th Anniversary as the EMS community's primary trade journal. The JEMS has chronicled the evolution of emergency medical services across the years.

Susan McHenry Named Among 20 of the Most Influential People in EMS

JEMS chose this occasion to recognize and visit with some of the most influential people in the industry and published the interviews in a two-part series in their July and August, 2000 issues of the journal. Among the twenty individuals named by JEMS as the most influential people in EMS over the last twenty years is NHTSA's own Susan McHenry, EMS Specialist in the EMS Division, Office of Traffic Injury Control Programs, Office of Traffic Safety Programs.

Prior to joining NHTSA in March of 1996, Susan served as the State EMS Director in the Commonwealth of Virginia for over 19 years. Special accomplishments highlighted by JEMS included the fact that, under Susan's

leadership, Virginia was (1) the first state in the country to implement, on a statewide basis, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Teams to support emergency services personnel in 1985; (2) the first state to sponsor a satellite EMS training program to provide quality continuing education for all EMS providers through monthly broadcasts in 1990. Susan was also one of the first Presidents of the National Association of State EMS Directors from 1981 to 1983.

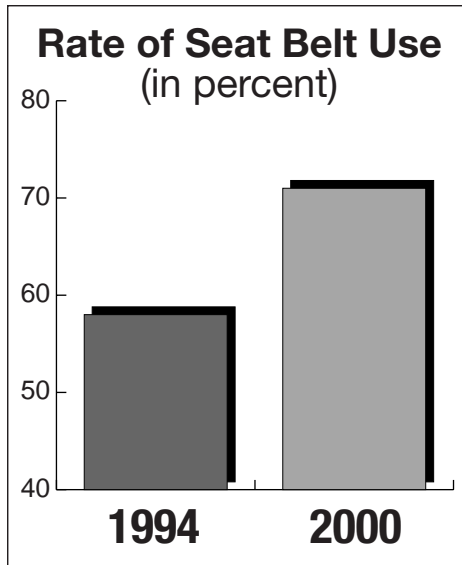
In addition, Susan was honored at a 2000 EMS Leadership Conference in Kansas City, held in July 28-29, for having helped "transform" the EMS profession, through steadfast leadership over time at both the state and federal levels. ■

Child, Alcohol-Related Deaths Are Down; Seat Belt Use Is Up

by Rae Tyson,
Office of Public and Consumer Affairs

Wednesday, September 6, 2000. Washington DC. Secretary Slater today announced that alcohol-related traffic fatalities dropped again to a new historical low and represented a smaller percentage of the total traffic fatalities, 38 percent in 1999 compared to 39 percent in 1998. Secretary Slater made the announcement with Members of Congress and the transportation industry in a salute to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for 20 years of accomplishment in helping to reduce alcohol-related crashes and fatalities.

"Last year, 234 fewer Americans died in alcohol-related crashes," said NHTSA Administrator Dr. Sue Bailey. "That is 234 American families who are not grieving, children who are not missing parents, or



schools who are not disrupted by tragedy. Nonetheless, alcohol-related fatalities and injuries remain intolerably high."

Secretary Slater also said that seat belt use has reached an all time high of 71 percent nationwide this year, another steady improvement on an upward trend from the 58 percent measured in the first national seat belt use survey completed in 1994.

In announcing results of a new seat belt survey and the 1999 Fatal Analysis Reporting System (FARS) assessment, Secretary Slater also said that President Clinton's goal of reducing fatalities among children five and under by 15 percent, set in 1997, was met in 1999, one year ahead of the President's target date. Fatalities in this group decreased to 555 in 1999 from 652 in 1996.

The 1999 FARS assessment by NHTSA found that, while population, total registered vehicles, and miles traveled all increased in

1999, the fatality rate remained virtually unchanged from 1998. The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.6 in both 1998 and 1999.

Total fatalities in 1999 were 41,611 compared to 41,501 in 1998. The total number of persons injured in crashes increased slightly from an estimated 3.19 million in 1998 to 3.24 million in 1999.

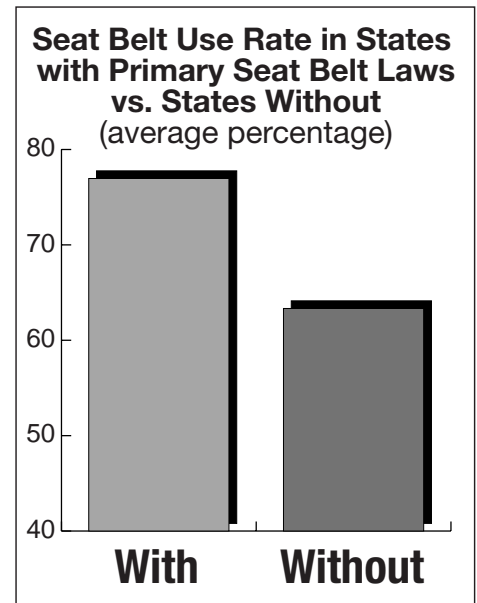
Secretary Slater credited the continuing hard work and support of the public-private partnerships for another year of progress. The USDOT is a partner with the Air Bag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign, a coalition of government, auto manufacturers, insurance companies, safety organizations, and professional associations who, in turn, work with state and local governments, law enforcement, health professionals, teachers and others to increase seat belt and child safety seat use.

The FARS for 1999 also indicates that:

- Seat belts and child safety seats clearly save lives. Fifty-seven percent of passenger car and light truck occupants killed in 1999 were unbelted.
- Pedestrian deaths dropped to 4,906 in 1999 from 5,228 in 1998.
- Alcohol-related fatalities dropped from 16,020 in 1998 to 15,786 in 1999.
- Alcohol-related fatalities among youths ages 15 – 20 increased slightly from 2,219 in 1998 to 2,238 in 1999.
- Fatalities involving large trucks dropped slightly from 5,395 in 1998 to 5,362 in 1999.
- Passenger car fatalities dropped 1.8 percent to 20,818 in 1999 compared to 1998 figures. In contrast, occupant fatalities in light trucks and vans (LTVs) rose 5 percent.
- For LTVs, which include sport utility vehicles, deaths from single vehicle rollovers increased 8.4 percent in 1999 to 4,352 fatalities.
- Motorcycle deaths were up 7.8 percent from 2,294 in 1998 to 2,472 in 1999.
- Speed-related fatalities increased slightly from 12,509 in 1998 to 12,628 in 1999.
- School bus *occupant* fatalities increased from 6 in 1998 to 10 in 1999, continuing the overall average of approximately 10 per year for the past several years. Total school bus-related fatalities increased from 122 in 1998 to 154 in 1999. School bus-related fatalities result from incidents around school buses and do not include school bus occupants.

The new survey results from NHTSA's June 2000 National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS) also found that:

- Seat belt use increased in all categories compared to the previous 1999 NOPUS study.
- Seat belt use increased in all geographic regions of the country. The largest increases were in the Midwest, which was up more than 8 percentage points.
- Seat belt use increased among occupants in all classes of vehicles: passenger cars, pickups, vans and SUVs.



- Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have primary seat belt laws; they averaged 77 percent seat belt use, while states without primary laws averaged 63 percent. This substantial difference shows dramatically the benefits of primary belt use laws.

Other recent seat belt use surveys have recorded dramatic increases in some states with new primary laws or highly visible law enforcement or both. Examples include:

- Michigan, which recorded seat belt use at 84 percent, an increase of nearly 14 percentage points in less than six months after the passage of its primary law.
- New York, where the State Police reported seat belt use at 86 percent, up 5 percent over a similar 1999 study, as a result of highly visible, state-wide enforcement of a primary law.

NHTSA collects crash statistics from the 50 states and the District of Columbia to produce the annual FARS assessment. The final report will be available later this year. Additional information is available on the Intranet at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

The margin of error on the NOPUS seat belt survey is plus or minus three percentage points. ■



Recent People Saving People/Teamwork Leadership Challenge Awards

Tilda Proctor NOA
For her leadership in facilitating its bi-weekly meetings to foster communication between the Associate Administrators and the Administrator's office.

Kathryn Henry NOA
For organizing the Satellite media tour for the Delta conference, which entailed coordination with four cabinet Secretaries and local media outlet with limited technology.

Arlene Whittington NPP
For initiating the development of a data base of House and Senate questions and answers that can be accessed and searched through the NHTSA Intranet (Webster).

Helen Noe NTS
For exemplary teamwork with all offices in TSP in processing an unusually high number of personnel actions, and providing assistance to staff members in preparing materials for TSP managers required to determine staffing needs throughout TSP.

Luke Loy NSA
George Entwistle NSA
Richard Merritt NSA
Taylor Vinson NSA

For serving on the committee to implement new regulations which permit importation of noncomplying vehicles for show or display without modification, if the vehicle is of technological or historical significance.

Tonja Lindsey NRD
Judith Hilton NRD

For doing an excellent job in cooperating and accomplishing a difficult task in a short period of time.

Daniel Pearse NRD
In recognition for putting together a detailed technical briefing and presentation for a major automobile manufacturer concerning a brake investigation that was underway.

Michael Perel NRD
Rita Gibbons NRD
Michael Goodman NRD
Donna Gilmore NRD
Joseph Tessmer NRD
Riley Garrett NRD

For showing exemplary leadership in planning, organizing and convening two public events on driver distraction focused on the potential safety implications of emerging in-vehicle technologies — the public meeting held on July 18, 2000 and the International Internet Forum.

Donna Stenski NRD
Deborah Woolard NRD
Catherine McCullough NRD
Elizabeth Mazzae NRD
Frank Barickman NOA
Elizabeth Neblett NOA
Tina Foley NOA
Rae Tyson NOA
Ellen Martin NOA
Richard Maurey NAD

Certificate of Appreciation (Contractors)
Thomas Ranney
Marion Faya
Yvette Johnson
Ashley Hollowell

In recognition for their teamwork in conducting the public meeting on driver distraction held on July 18, 2000.

Jyoti Surti NRD
Carl Pierchala NRD
Barry Eisemann NRD
Florian Daniels NRD

For reviewing and doing an excellent job with the 1999 FARS Annual Report File.

August Burgett NRD
David Smith NRD

In recognition for their leadership in showcasing NHTSA's efforts in research under the Intelligent Vehicle Initiative (IVI) of ITS research program at the National Intelligent Vehicle Initiative meeting held on July 19-20, 2000.

Maria Vegega NTS

In recognition for having the vision of a national plan and her leadership in solidifying sponsorship for the Bike Safety 2000 Conference between NHTSA, Federal Highway Administration, Centers for Disease Control and the Bicycle Safety Network.

Marietta Pearson NTS
For her invaluable assistance in the planning and execution of the Bicycle Safety 2000 Conference.

Robin Mayer NTS
James Wright NTS
Robert Young NSA

For their contributions as facilitators of the small group working sessions at the Bicycle Safety 2000 Conference.

Cheryl Neverman NTS
For her contribution as break-out session recorders during the Bicycle Safety 2000 Conference.

Certificate of Appreciation
Amy Matush
For her teamwork and superb organizational skills in coordinating the challenge and critical aspects of the Bicycle Safety 2000 Conference.

Sarah Hunt
For her invaluable assistance in recording the discussion from the working breakout sessions at the Bicycle Safety 2000 Conference.

Cynthia Powell
For her invaluable assistance in recording the discussion from working breakout sessions at the Bicycle Safety 2000 Conference.

Terri Droneburg NSA
In recognition for the exemplary effort she put forth in the performance of her duties during the time frame of May 2 – August 9, 2000.

Terrance Parker Region IV
For contributing substantially to the formulation of a NHTSA Region IV report entitled *Youth Death on the Highway: The Case for a Comprehensive Graduated Driver License System*.

Kenneth Quintana Region IV
For being instrumental in securing the conference facilities for the National Law Enforcement Liaison meeting in Atlanta.

Curtis Murff Region V
For his outstanding work in developing the marketing instruments and arranging for the web cast of the One Dot Model Work Environment Symposium.

Philip Weiser Region VIII
Jon Setzer Region VIII
Robert Welter Region VIII
John Basler Region VIII
William Watada Region VIII

For their teamwork toward conducting the Colorado RV Safety Clinic targeted at both older drivers and non-belt users. This required significant preparation time as well as all day work on Saturday.

NHTSA Now is an official publication of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Public and Consumer Affairs.

Kathryn Henry
Editor

Contributors: Linda Divilbiss, NOA; Prentis Kie, NAD; Fran Balicudiang, TSP; Rae Tyson, OPACA.

If you would like to submit articles or photographs, please address them to NHTSA/OPACA, attention Kathryn Henry, NOA-42, 400 7th Street, SW, Room 5232, Washington DC 20590. (202) 366-9550. FAX: (202) 366-5962. Internet address: khenry@nhtsa.dot.gov

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.”

— **President Theodore Roosevelt**