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NHTSA Seeks Public Comment on Priority Plan For Vehicle Safety Rulemaking

July 25, 2002. NHTSA issued a formal request for public comment on its plan for vehicle safety rulemaking priorities, *NHTSA Vehicle Safety Rulemaking Priorities: 2002–2005*. The plan includes the agency's highest priority rulemaking actions that fall within the immediate four-year time frame.

For the near term (2002-2003), NHTSA's regulatory priorities will be the Transportation, Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation Act (TREAD) requirements, including tires, rollover prevention and child safety. Other important safety concerns will include improved head restraints and fuel system integrity, advanced air bags and dummies, upgraded roof crush resistance, occupant ejection prevention in rollover crashes, offset frontal and enhanced side crash protection, and reduced glare from headlamps.

Longer term (2004–2005) testing, analysis, and potential rulemaking actions will address incompatibility in crashes between passenger cars and light trucks, dynamic stability control, roadway departure collision avoidance systems, and the reduction of driver distractions.

Motor vehicle crashes killed 41,821 individuals and injured 3,189,000 others in 6.4 million crashes in 2000. Preliminary data from 2001 indicates that the number of fatalities remains at over 41,000.

"In addition to the terrible personal toll, these crashes result in a huge economic cost to society with an estimated annual cost of \$230.6 billion, or an average of \$820 for every person living in the United States," said NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge. "One of the most important ways in which NHTSA carries out its safety mandate is to issue and enforce Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). Through these rules, NHTSA strives to reduce the number of crashes and to minimize the consequences of the crashes that do occur."

NHTSA will strive to influence the automotive industry to incorporate advances in vehicle and safety technology in new vehicles

while ensuring that the use of the new technologies enhances vehicle safety. Agency
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Administrator Runge Tours European Automotive Facilities

July 4–11, 2002. Dr. Jeff Runge visited automotive industry facilities in Europe in order to learn about state-of-the-art vehicle safety research and technologies. Specifically, he visited Volvo, Mercedes, Porsche, Audi and BMW. He listened to presentations and witnessed demonstrations regarding areas such as accident research, advanced braking and lighting technologies, rollover and vehicle

compatibility, advanced occupant protection and intelligent vehicle technologies, such as driving assistance. He had the opportunity to experience first-hand some of these advanced technologies on the test track. He was accompanied by Steve Kratzke, Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards, and Julie Abraham, Director of International Policy and Harmonization. ■



NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge enjoys a museum tour of the Audi Forum in Ingolstadt, Germany on July 10, 2002. Pictured from left to right: Steve Kratzke, Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards; Lou Brown, Government Technical Affairs Manager, Volkswagen of America, Inc.; Julie Abraham, Director, Office of International Policy and Harmonization; Dietmar Haenchen, Manager of Safety Affairs and Testing, Volkswagen of America, Inc.; and Dr. Jeff Runge, NHTSA Administrator.

TSP Staff Represent NHTSA at the National School Resource Officers Conference

By Pamela Chapman,
Traffic Safety Programs

Monday, July 15, 2002. Ontario, California. Cheryl Neverman was presented with an Award for Excellence for her service to youth and her work with NOYS (National Organizations for Youth Safety) at the National Association of School Resource Officer's (NASRO) 12th Annual Conference. Ms. Neverman is the NHTSA Coordinator for NOYS. NOYS representatives include the CEOs, Directors and/or Presidents and youth of youth-member and youth-serving organizations, such as NASRO, and several Federal agencies.

Five youth representatives of various NOYS national organizations, School Resource Officers, and outgoing President Bill West participated with NHTSA Office of Traffic Safety Program's staff members Cheryl Neverman and Pamela Chapman in a plenary forum with a panel discussion of youth safety concerns. The panel addressed the importance of educating youth about traffic crashes and safety in a discussion of everyday risks faced by the Nation's youth within the context of new concerns about terrorism raised since 9/11. Panelists and the session participants emphasized the importance of a traffic safety education program conducted by School

Resource Officers to help prevent traffic crashes and fatalities as it is the number one

cause of unintentional death and injury to this age group.

Curt Lavarello, NASRO Executive Director commented that this year's youth panel was well received and attended, with the largest ever participation from conference attendees. ■



NHTSA's Cheryl Neverman at the podium.

Region VI Hosts Fatality Analysis Reporting System Meeting

Because reliable and accurate data is the cornerstone of successful highway safety programs, NHTSA Region VI hosted a first



ever FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System) meeting in June in Fort Worth. FARS analysts and supervisors from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas participated

Region VI FARS coordinator Elaine Scott and NCSA's Dennis Flemons discuss the roles and responsibilities of the State, Region and Washington offices in making the FARS data collection process run as timely and efficiently as possible.

along with the R6 FHWA liaison and Regional staff. The meeting was designed to identify regional and state issues and seek solutions. Meeting recommendations included marketing the FARS system to law enforcement and others, educating FARS recorders on the importance of the data and how it is being used, determining additional FARS analyst training needs, evaluating state specific logistical issues, and other beneficial proposals. ■

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safety standard priorities come from many sources, including: the size of the safety problem and likelihood of solutions, Executive priorities, Congressional interest and mandates, petitions to the agency for rulemaking and other expressions of public interest, interest in harmonizing safety standards with those of other nations, and changes needed as a result of new vehicle technologies. The starting point for rulemaking priorities is the

quest for the greatest potential protection of lives and prevention of injury.

The plan is organized along several broad categories: light vehicle crash prevention and occupant protection, incompatibility between passenger cars and light trucks, heavy truck safety, and special populations protection, which includes safety for children, people with disabilities, and older people. The plan also includes other active rulemaking areas, in addition to the top priorities. ■

Idaho Governor Encourages Kids to Ride School Buses



Idaho governor Dirk Kempthorne asked former NHTSA Public Affairs Deputy Director Barry McCahill to get him a “school bus” so that when kids come to his office, he could encourage them to ride on the bus. The School Bus Information Council, which Barry represents, was more than pleased to accom-

modate his request. Pictured from left to right: Governor Dirk Kempthorne; Rod McKnight, Director of Transportation Services; Ray Merical, Transportation Specialist; and Barry McCahill, representing the School Bus Information Council. ■

Quick Action Stops Impaired Driver; NHTSA Student Aide Prevents Potential Crash

By Lorie Dankers, Region X

Erratic and reckless driving near his home on a warm mid-July evening caught the eye of Sean Farrell, Region X’s summer student aide. After witnessing the driver cross the center line multiple times, over-correct, veer off the shoulder of the highway and nearly hit a bicyclist in a distance of less than one mile, Sean knew that he was witnessing a breach of public safety.

Sean followed the driver who pulled into a fast-food parking lot. With a friend’s cell phone, he called 911 and reported what he’d seen. “I wanted to do something right away. I didn’t want to witness a crash that I knew could be prevented,” he said.

Two police officers quickly responded and kept the driver from returning to the roads.

Knowing that impaired driving can cause death and injury, Sean took the initiative to

keep this driver from becoming another statistic. Good work, Sean. What a great example of “People Saving People.” ■



Sean, a sophomore at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., is studying marketing. This is his second summer working for Region X in Seattle.

NHTSA Benefits from Summer Medical Student Internship

By Jared Goldberg,
Summer Medical Student

Each summer the American Medical Association (AMA) sponsors medical students from around the country to come to Washington, D.C. to work in government internship positions. The medical students selected by the AMA participate in this competitive program, and once selected, they are given the choice of working in Congressional offices or



Pictured from left to right: Jared Goldberg, NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge, Lee Morris.

in government agencies such as NHTSA. The internships, which last from 6–8 weeks, are designed to expose the students to public health issues through a public policy perspective.

This summer, NHTSA obtained two interns through the AMA program. Lee Morris, from the Medical College of Georgia, has been working in the Occupant Protection Division. He has been documenting the role that physicians play in promoting passage of primary seat belt laws in their states, as well as demonstrating the importance of physician involvement in these issues. He is also working on an article on rollover crashes with Dr. Joe Tinning that will appear in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

The second summer intern, Jared Goldberg, is a student from the New York University School of Medicine. He has been working in the Office of Communications and Outreach, focusing most of his efforts on developing an injury prevention educational package geared towards medical students. The package emphasizes the role that physicians can play in preventing motor vehicle injuries, particularly the “teachable moment”. He also contributed to an article on the economic impact of motor vehicle crashes for the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

Following their internships at NHTSA, Lee and Jared will return to their respective medical schools to begin their second year of training. ■



Recent People Saving People/Teamwork Leadership Challenge Awards

Bonita Twyman, NTS
 Aaron Henderson, NTS
 Gloria Beale, NTS
 Jennell Gomez, NTS
 Francisca Balicudiong, NTS

In recognition for their team effort in resolving 23 outstanding executive secretariat correspondences within three days.

Robin Esser, NTS

For purchasing 19 vehicles needed by the Light Vehicle Rollover Research program in an extremely rapid and efficient manner.

Kristen Allen, Region III

In recognition for organizing the first Region III Diversity Workshop bringing together a wide spectrum of diversity partners to discuss effective programs and outreach activities.

Lorraine Novak, Region III

For organizing, marketing, and overseeing the operation for the 2nd Region III Occupant Protection Law Enforcement Summit.

Antoine Clark, NSC

In recognition for his success in taking over the managing of materials and providing efficiency and excellent service to the Regional Offices.

Philip Weiser, Region VIII

In recognition for preparation and delivery of an outstanding alcohol presentation at the Mother's Against Drunk Driving, Native American, Safe and Sober workshop in Bismarck, ND.

Michelle Peterson, Region VIII

For going the extra mile and offering to work as long as it takes to meet Regional deadlines during preparation.

John Balsler, Region VIII

For his hard work in working with Region VIII staff in expanding the number of Law Enforcement Liaisons in Region VIII from 3 to 68 in four months.

Mario Damiata, Region I
 Ann Burton, Region II
 Kristen Allen, Region III
 Kenneth Quintana, Region IV
 Curtis Murff, Region V
 Bruce Shults, Region VI
 Susan De Courcy, Region VII

Robert Weltzer, Region VIII
 Rosalind Tianco, Region IX
 Lorie Dankers, Region X

For their hard work in getting the *Traffic Safety Digest* out in a timely manner and submitting quality projects.

George E. Mouchahoir, NPS
 Tewabe Asebe, NPS

In recognition for their excellent teamwork and quality of service in support of a joint public meeting on motorcoach safety with Transport Canada.

Charles Hott, NRD

For his dedicated teamwork and quality of service in performing duties beyond his normal assignment to organize a public meeting on motorcoach safety.

Sharon Scott, NAD
 Shirlene Ball, NAD

In recognition and appreciation for their participation in the planning and execution of NHTSA's Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration on January 17, 2002 and the African American History Month Program on February 25, 2002.

Belinda Rawls, NOA
 Janice Hartwill-Miller, NTS
 Catha Cummings, NTS
 Sandy Richardson, NTS

In recognition for supporting the efforts of TSP in the production of a roll call videotape that was held in support of the *Click It or Ticket* campaign held in May.

Craig Summers, NTS

In recognition for his timely support and assuming additional duties with very little guidance during an extremely busy period.

Sandi Usher Buchanan, NTS
 Barbara Sauers, NTS

In recognition of their timely development of a web-based training session for state highway safety offices on how to purchase air time to support the May seat belt mobilization.

Lorraine Novak, R-III
 Stephanie Hancock, R-III
 Gary Butler, R-IV
 William Kootsikis, R-IV
 Valerie Gompf, NTS
 Janet Ciccel, NTS

For their guidance and expertise in developing

statements of work for projects in Pennsylvania and Georgia to focus on high risk groups, particularly repeat offenders.

Carolyn Felder, NSA
 Samuel Daniel, Jr., NPS

In recognition for their efficiency in resolving six informal EEO complaints within a three-month period.

Valencia C. Dixon, NPS

For voluntarily working late to complete high priority control correspondence in a timely manner.

Delia Lopez, NPS

In recognition for coordinating different administrative activities such as meetings with Office Directors, staff, contractors, building services personnel, and scheduling of several tasks. By doing so, unforeseeable problems were easily avoided or handled with little or no disruption.

Walter Murianka, NSA

For his quick action in notifying a manufacturer of a safety related problem. He was able to convince the company to take appropriate corrective action with minimum delay and minimum administrative burden to the agency.

Ivonne Rodriguez, NAD
 Anna Coto, NAD

In recognition for her assistance in the preparation of memoranda to respond to the Executive Director, Associate Administrators and Staff Office Directors regarding the FY-02 annual employee and development needs survey.

Jacqueline Hilliard, NAD

For going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that a tight schedule was kept for accomplishing the task of providing a suitable office environment for anticipated arrivals.

Donna Burke, R-I

For her outstanding customer service and contribution to the efficiency of the office.

James C. Ryan, R-I

On September 12, 2001, Administrator Runge directed that NHTSA support the crisis Management Centers and assist the other modes where possible concerning the events of September 11, 2001. Mr. Ryan represented the office at the DOT Boston support office in a commendable manner.

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Kathryn Henry
 Editor

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

You can come out of the furnace of trouble two ways: if you let it consume you, you come out a cinder; but there is a kind of metal which refuses to be consumed, and comes out a star.

— Jean Church