

**DOT Staff Participates in International Walk to School Day**  
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all 50 States and more than 32 countries around the world. In 2002, nearly 3 million walkers from 28 countries walked to school together for various reasons - all hoping to create communities that are safe places to walk. International Walk to School Day gives children, parents, teachers, and community leaders an opportunity to be part of a global event as they celebrate the many benefits of walking.

- Some of the best ways to increase the safety of a child's walk to school are to:
- provide safe, well-maintained walkways separate from vehicles;
  - teach children to cross streets at marked crossings, and provide ample, well-designed, accessible, and when necessary monitored crosswalks;
  - slow traffic in neighborhoods and near schools.

Promoting safe walking through International Walk to School Day is one way to achieve other goals related to children's health. By eliminating short-distance car trips, overall air quality and childhood asthma rates can be improved. By encouraging walking, children's fitness and obesity rates can be improved. By having adequate and appropriate sidewalks and crosswalks, risky walking and crossing behaviors can be reduced. All of these lead to better health and safety for the nation's children. For more information and to see President Bush's letter, please visit [www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org). ■

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Kathryn Henry, Editor

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**Congratulations to the following NHTSA employees who received awards from the Secretary for 2003:**

- Award for Meritorious Achievement**  
Dr. Charles J. Kahane  
Dr. William T. Hollowell
- The Secretary's Award for Excellence**  
Lisa A. Snyder      Aysha K. Ahmed
- The Secretary's Team Award**  
**National Click It or Ticket Team**  
Philip M. Gulak      John F. Oates, Jr.  
Linda A. Cosgrove  
Janice Hartwill-Miller  
Jennifer A Beery      JoAnn Moore  
Lori G. Millen      Peggy F. Proctor  
Luis R. Del Rio, Jr.  
Pamela C. Chapman      Charles E. Peltier  
Sandra L. Richardson      Dennis E. Utter  
Donna J. Glassbrenner  
Henrietta R. Mosley  
NHTSA's Ten Regional Offices
- The Secretary's Partnering for Excellence Award**  
**The Corporate Average Fuel Economy Team**  
Otto G. Matheke, III      Peter M. Feather  
Carol Hammel-Smith      James F. Simons  
Stephen P. Wood      Nancy E. Bell  
John Donaldson      John E. Glancy
- The U.S. DOT Safety Goal Team (with FHWA)**  
Rose A. McMurray      Marlene Markison  
Marilena Amoni      Jane S. Dion



Congratulations to the Office of Communications and Consumer Information's Lori Millen who received an award from the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) as the NHTSA Procurement official for the Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Program. The Office of Contracts and Procurement nominated her for coordinating the Sunshine Communications contract award.

*"This nomination is on behalf of Lori Millen of The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of*

*Communications and Consumer Information Office for her untiring efforts to interview, evaluate and select capable 8(a) firms who have the capability to perform public relations and communications support of NHTSA's Traffic Safety Program Initiatives. As a direct result of her efforts NHTSA will meet and exceed its Major Preference Program Goals for 8(a) procurements and women owned procurements - for fiscal year 2003. Recently Lori selected Sunshine Communications Inc, an 8(a) - women owned firm for a project to provide NHTSA with public relations and communications support that will raise traffic safety awareness and positively and measurably change traffic safety behaviors among the African American community. The total estimated cost of the award will be \$1,175,000 over a 5-year period."*

*"As a result of her dedication, Lori has helped emphasize NHTSA's initiatives, which encourage policies that support the Department of Transportation's strategic goal - to encourage and assist small, women-owned, and disadvantaged businesses to participate in Department of Transportation contracts and grant programs."* ■

**Career Milestones**

*Congratulations to the Following NHTSA Employees Who Have Achieved Career Milestones*

	Years of Service
<b>Administration</b>	
Margaret D. Bryant	30
Vilma V. Prather	35
<b>Applied Research</b>	
Michael W. Monk	30
Stephen M. Summers	20
<b>Enforcement</b>	
Dennis C. Edmondson	20
Zachary R. Fraser	25
Richard C. Morse	30
Vincent R. J. Quarles, Jr.	30
John E. Ridgley	20
Robert Wigglesworth	30
<b>Rulemaking</b>	
William J. J. Liu	30
<b>Injury Control Operations and Resources</b>	
James W. Downey	30
Curtis E. Murff	20
Rosemary Nye	30
Andrew V. Stancell	20
<b>Program Development and Delivery</b>	
Deborah A. Boykin	20
Richard P. Compton	25
James F. Frank	25



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**Click It or Ticket (CIOT)/Operation ABC (America Buckles Up Children) Mobilization Enforces Safety Belt Laws the Last Two Weeks in November**

*November 17, 2003. Washington, DC.*



NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge

From November 17-30, more than 12,000 law enforcement agencies across the nation joined forces for the annual Click It or Ticket/Operation ABC Mobilization. Sponsors of the event include NHTSA, the National Transportation Safety Board, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Airbag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign of the National Safety Council.

NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge announced this year's mobilization efforts to draw attention to the need for primary enforcement safety belt laws. Secondary states with safety belt laws were encouraged to support strong law enforcement and to recognize the life-saving benefits by passing primary laws. At the kick off, NHTSA released a State-by-State table of safety belt use rates.

Forty states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico achieved higher safety belt use rates in 2003 than the year before. Safety belt use in the United States has reached 79 percent - the highest level in the nation's history.

Now ranking among the top five jurisdictions for safety belt use are the state of Washington (94.8 percent); Hawaii (91.8 percent); California (91.2 percent); Oregon (90.4 percent); and Maryland (87.9 percent).

The five states achieving the greatest gains in safety belt use this year are Alaska, with a 13.1 percentage point gain; Arizona, with a 12.5 percentage point gain; Massachusetts, with a 10.7 percentage point gain; Indiana, with a 10.1 percentage point gain; and Idaho, with an 8.8 percentage point gain.

While many U.S. states and jurisdictions have achieved higher safety belt use rates this year, a few others have reported statistics indicating a drop in belt use.

Nationwide restraint use estimates are based on the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS), conducted annually by NHTSA. The previous survey in June 2002 found nationwide belt use at 75 percent. This scientific survey was based on observations at 2,000 sites across the country. The margin of error for the NOPUS survey on the national estimates of restraint use is plus or minus 1.2 percentage points.

More information on the survey results can be found on NHTSA's website at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov). ■

## Indiana Ranks Sixth Best in Nation in Alcohol-Related Fatalities and Sets State Record for Fewest Number of Motor Vehicle Fatalities

By Curtis Murff, NHTSA Region V

October 16, 2003. Historic State House.

Indiana's Governor Joe Kernan held a press conference to announce that in 2002 Indiana ranked sixth best in the country, at 34 percent, in alcohol-related traffic fatalities as a percentage of total fatalities. The actual number of alcohol-related fatalities in Indiana dropped, as well, from 337 in 2001 to 269 last year.

"Of course, one death on our streets and highways is too many," said Kernan. "But this is very encouraging news. It has been a team effort to improve these numbers, and it's clear that everyone's work is paying off for the safety of our citizens."

Also in 2002, Indiana experienced the fewest number of motor vehicle fatalities in the state's history. For the first time ever, the number of motor vehicle fatalities was below 800, at 792. In addition, the state ranked fifth in fatality rate per hundred million vehicle miles driven at 1.1 deaths.

NHTSA studies show that education accompanied by enforcement is a strong, effective combination in convincing motorists to change their behavior. Indiana law enforcement has worked diligently to remind Hoosier motorists to never drive impaired and always buckle up. Indiana conducts Click It Or Ticket and *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.* highly publicized, statewide enforcement mobilizations.

"Without a doubt, there have been significant programmatic efforts that have contributed to the reduction of motor vehicle crashes and fatalities in Indiana," said Jerry McCorry, director of the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, a division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (CJI). "The commitment to saving lives on Indiana's roadways is one CJI will continue to be dedicated to."

In the past decade, the overall Indiana motor vehicle fatality rate has seen a 31.3 percent reduction. Since 1999, the total number of traffic fatalities has declined 22 percent. ■



Pictured left to right: Mayor Bart Peterson, Governor Joe Kernan, Senator Tom Wyss, Director Jerry McCorry (seated).

## DOT Staff Participates in International Walk to School Day

By: Essie Wagner  
Program Development and Delivery  
Office of Safety Programs  
Safety Countermeasures Division

*Our Nation has a responsibility to build a secure and nurturing society so that our children can grow, learn, work, and succeed. By encouraging walking or biking to school, this Day challenges students to reach their potential and helps them establish a foundation for a lifetime of health and fitness.*

— President George W. Bush, October 8, 2003.

On October 8th grade students from Truesdell Elementary School in Washington, DC, joined students from around the world to celebrate the 7th Annual International Walk to School Day. Mary Peters, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and representatives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Education, and the Partnership for a Walkable America walked to school with children who attend Truesdell Elementary. Speaking on behalf of Secretary Norman Mineta, Ms. Peters said that the Department of Transportation is proud to be part of the Walk to School effort and encourages local communities to build on these events to make themselves more walkable for all trips.

The Partnership for a Walkable America (PWA), an alliance of organizations and agencies that have joined together to make America a better place for walking, started Walk to School Day in Chicago in October 1997. NHTSA and FHWA are PWA partners. Since then Walk to School Day has grown to an international event that includes more than 3,000 schools in

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## DOT Employees Attend Motorcycle Rider Education and Training Course

by Sue Ryan, Director, Office of Safety Programs

To gain a better understanding of motorcycle safety issues, several DOT employees successfully passed the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's two-day motorcycle rider training course on October 2-3, 2003, in Alexandria, VA. Participants included: Paul Jones, Jackie Glassman, Dee Williams, Valerie Gompf and Sue Ryan of NHTSA; Mary Peters,

Administrator, George Ostensen and Beth Alicandri of FHWA; and Warren Hoemann, Deputy Administrator, FMCSA. The objective of the training was to provide a better understanding of motorcycling and highway safety issues and increase cooperation among DOT agencies on motorcycle safety. ■



Pictured from left to right: Joey Syner – Motorcycle Safety Manager, NHTSA; Kathy Van Kleek, Vice President, Government Relations, Motorcycle Safety Foundation; Bruce Biondo, Coordinator, Virginia Rider Training Program; Mike Pearlstein, Motorcycle Industry Council; Dave Hepburn, RiderCoach Trainer, Virginia Rider Training Program. Second Row: Valerie Gompf, NHTSA; Warren Hoemann, Deputy Director, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; Sue Ryan, Director, Office of Safety Programs, NHTSA; Dee Williams, NHTSA; Mary Peters, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; Tim Buche, President, Motorcycle Safety Foundation; Colonel Buck Dewey, US Marine Corp Director of Safety; Jackie Glassman, Chief Counsel, NHTSA; Paul Jones, Senior Policy Advisor, NHTSA; Beth Alicandri, Director, Office of Safety Programs, FHWA; George Ostensen, Associate Administrator for Safety, FHWA.



Pictured from left to right: Bob Ciolek, 23rd District Court Administrator; Taylor Mayor Gregory E. Pitoniak; Rick Huey, Research Engineer, Westat; Earl Hardy, NHTSA; Doreen DeLeonardis, Project Director, Westat; Pamela Chapman, NHTSA; Mark Freedman, Director, Transportation and Safety Research, Westat; Glenn Bondy, Chief of Police (Taylor); Sgt. John Blair, Taylor Police Department; Cpl. Michael Caldwell, Taylor Police Department; Martin Parker, Senior Engineer, Wade-Trim Associates; Eric Harris, Professional Engineer, Wade-Trim Associates.

## Taylor Michigan Awarded a Speed Setting and Enforcement Demonstration Project Grant

by Earl Hardy and Pamela Chapman, Enforcement & Justice Services Division

November 3, 2003. The City of Taylor (Michigan) was awarded a \$264,000 grant from the U.S. DOT Speed Management Team, through FHWA, to conduct a rational speed setting and enforcement demonstration project. Taylor, located just south of Dearborn and west of the Detroit is a progressive city boasting a proactive police department and city council. During a recent site visit, Earl Hardy and Pamela Chapman with the Enforcement and Justice Services Division met with the Mayor, Chief Magistrate, city officials and police department personnel. The Mayor and city council fully support the project and expressed their appreciation to the U.S. DOT Speed Management Team for granting the award. The project is under the direction of a team comprised of personnel from NHTSA, Westat, a research firm of Rockville Maryland, and the Taylor Police Department.

During the two-day site visit, project team members examined the demonstration streets, reviewed the comparison site and discussed the data analysis process that will be used throughout the project. Taylor is one of the three sites awarded a project this year, the final of a three-year, three-stage study. Other states involved include Mississippi, Louisiana, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia and Indiana.

With speeding contributing to more than 31 percent of fatal crashes, the lessons learned during these projects should contribute to a reduction in fatalities as well as elevate the attention for the implementation of rational speed limits. ■