Register for the September Meeting

Our next Road to Zero Coalition meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, at the 20 F Street NW Conference Center near Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Our friends from the law enforcement community will lead this meeting to discuss their important role in ending roadway fatalities. The meeting will also be available live via webcast. Register here and get ready for the meeting!

Member Spotlight: AASHTO

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), a Steering Group member, works to educate the public and key decision makers about the critical role that transportation plays in securing a good quality of life and sound economy for our nation. AASHTO serves as a catalyst for excellence in transportation by offering:

- Smart solutions and promising practices
- Critical information, training and data
- Direct technical assistance to states
- Unchallenged expertise

They are also hosting the 2018 AASHTO Annual Meeting in Atlanta September 20-24. Learn more about the event and register here.

Protect Kids from Hot Car Deaths

On average, 37 children die each year due to pediatric vehicular heatstroke (PVH). Already, more than two dozen children have died this year and all of these deaths are preventable. A new report from the National Safety Council, titled Kids in Hot Cars; a Legislative Look Across the U.S., advocates for stronger laws to protect children from being knowingly left unattended in vehicles, as well as increased awareness for caregivers of vehicle heating dynamics.
According to the report, only 21 states and Guam have laws in place to address children being left unattended in vehicles, but this is a risk in every state all 12 months of the year. Download the full report and learn what you and your organizations can do to protect children from PVH.

News from the Hill

Heidi King’s nomination to be the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration Administrator advanced out of Committee to the full Senate on June 27. A Senate vote has not yet been scheduled. With the expiration of the FAST Act, highway and transit policy will be up for renewal at the end of FY 2020. As conversations begin in and around Washington, DC, all Road to Zero members must do our part to ensure safety remains a top priority in any reauthorization effort. Past advocacy from road safety groups has led to funding for vehicle research, impaired driving, distracted driving, teen driving, high-visibility enforcement, and a host of other safety issues. Check out the Road to Zero safety priority statements page to see the policies supported by the Coalition. If you would like to add one, please contact us at roadtozero@nsc.org.

In the Know

Here are some of the latest updates, findings and news from your fellow Road to Zero Coalition members. We can feature your news as well. To submit news, announcements or updates for inclusion in the Road to Zero newsletter, email your message to roadtozero@nsc.org. Include all relevant details, links, names, etc. and any special notes regarding the announcement.

This month we have several announcements:

1. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced during a press event in Nebraska on July 3 that USDOT will officially launch a pilot program to permit 18 to 20 year olds who possess the U.S. military equivalent of a commercial driver's license or "CDL" to operate large trucks in interstate commerce. Read on for additional details.

2. This December 5-6, Transportation for America is hosting their national Capital Ideas conference on innovative state transportation policy and funding solutions in Atlanta, GA. Transportation for America is currently soliciting session proposals for the conference. To learn more, register for the event and submit a session proposal, visit the Capital Ideas homepage.

3. According to NHTSA, more than 800 bicyclists were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2016. These fatalities have increased repeatedly the past several years, but we can help reverse them. Read on for tips on biking safely from NHTSA and how drivers can share the road with bicyclists.
4. A new report from the European Transport Safety Council claims that Norway is the safest EU country for road users, with only 20 road deaths per million inhabitants. With a global average of 174 fatalities per one million inhabitants, Norway sets a great example of the results that can be achieved with a strong dedication to road safety. Read the full report for more details.

5. New research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, in partnership with the University of Utah, details the visual and cognitive demands required by drivers to use vehicle infotainment systems. The research includes data on several model year 2017/2018 vehicles, as well as systems designed by Apple and Google. See the findings on these different infotainment systems.

6. The Kiefer Foundation is offering youth aged 16 and up a chance to win a $25,000 scholarship for their ideas on how to stop distracted driving. Applicants must make a short video under 30 seconds on their idea and share on Instagram or Twitter with the hashtags #HandsFreeUSA and #Contest. Ideas could be a policy proposal, helpful tip, innovative idea, or more. Deadline is September 3. Learn more here and sign up today.

7. The National Safety Council is currently recruiting for a Senior Program Manager, Transportation Safety. Do you fit the bill? Take a look at the full post and learn how you can get involved in eliminating preventable deaths on our Nation’s roadways.

Pack Safe for Road Trips

Packing for a trip can be stressful – you don’t want to forget anything important – but it is just as important to make sure your luggage is stowed properly in your vehicle. Travelers, a Coalition member, has an excellent video overview of the risks and how to reduce hazards when packing for a road trip. Cars that are too heavy, for example, can take longer to bring to a stop, piling items too high in the car can throw off the vehicle’s stability. Take a look at the video for more tips and stay safe on the roads!