Stay up to Date with Road to Zero

At the last Coalition meeting in December, we discussed the working groups that would be formed around the three pillars of the Road to Zero report. If you are interested in participating in one of the three working groups, send an email with your name, organization and contact information to RoadtoZeroUS@nsc.org. Put “Working Group” in the subject line and indicate which group you wish to join:

- Doubling Down on What Works
- Accelerating Advanced Technology
- Prioritizing Safety

RTZ recently sent a survey to its members to help gauge interest and plan for the future. If you see that in your inbox please take a few minutes to fill it out.

Applications for 2019 Grants closed at the end of January. We received many applications this year. Grant readers are reviewing the applications now and winners will be announced this spring. Learn more about past winners here.

Coalition membership is continuously growing; we are now up to more than 891 members! If you know of an organization that could join, encourage them to do so at nsc.org/roadtozero. Remember, we can accomplish more – and save the most lives – together.

Don’t forget to take a look at our updated Road to Zero communications toolkit. This version reflects changes to the Steering Group and updates to talking points. It is an excellent resource to help you promote your membership, take a look now.

If you’re new to the Coalition or just want to get the latest updates each day, follow Road to Zero on Twitter and Facebook.
Want to share news or updates from your organization? Have an idea to share that could help make progress in road safety? Reach out to us at roadtozero@nsf.org.

New GHSA Report on Speeding

GHSA’s latest spotlight report, "Speeding Away from Zero: Rethinking a Forgotten Traffic Safety Challenge," highlights excessive vehicle speed as a persistent contributor to motor vehicle fatalities, accounting for nearly a third of traffic deaths each year. The report takes a fresh look at this challenge, outlining the latest research, programming, and countermeasures to address speeding.

The report calls for increased attention to this issue through comprehensive public awareness campaigns, traditional and automated enforcement efforts, and traffic calming infrastructure. Additionally, the report examines successful approaches to speeding, including the implementation of Vision Zero concepts in urban areas. The widespread public acceptance of speeding and lack of risk perception are also underlined as obstacles to reducing speeding deaths.

Take a look at the full report.

News from the Hill

On Jan. 25, President Trump signed a continuing resolution ending the longest government shutdown in U.S. History, spanning 35 days. The measure, referred to as a stop-gap spending bill, temporarily reopens the federal government by providing funding through Feb. 15.

Several government agencies, including the Department of Transportation, were affected by the shutdown. Although some positions were funded by alternative sources, such as user fees and the highway trust fund, safety agencies including the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were forced to slow or stop their work. In all, nine out of the 15 federal agencies were closed due to the shutdown, resulting in 380,000 employees being sent home without pay. In addition to Transportation, these agencies included: the Department of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, State and Treasury.

The continuing resolution only gives lawmakers three weeks to decide on a new plan or risk another government shutdown.

As a reminder, the 116th Session of U.S. Congress began Jan. 3. With Democrats regaining the House of Representatives and Republicans expanding their advantage in the Senate in the November elections,
bipartisan cooperation will be key to advancing a legislative agenda. Roadway priorities for this Congress are expected to include:

- A continued push for infrastructure investment
- The commencement of work on a transportation reauthorization bill, including potential funding for safety priorities

We encourage you to consider including the three pillars of the Road to Zero – Doubling Down on What Works, Accelerating Advanced Technology, and Prioritizing Safety – as you reach out to newly elected officials and their staff. If you would like copies of the Road to Zero report to include in your leave-behind materials, please email roadtozero@nsc.org. Working together, we can reach our shared goal of Zero deaths.

**Pack Your Emergency Kit**

Emergency kits are an essential part of emergency preparation and winter driving is no exception. To prepare for hazardous winter roads, every vehicle should have an emergency kit accessible. Kits should contain tools, such as jumper cables, a spare tire with adequate air, a flashlight, first aid kit, reflective vest, and enough nonperishable food and water for at least three days.

Depending on where you’ll be driving, your kit can include plenty of additional resources as well, just don’t forget to include the basics listed above and others such as blankets, extra clothing and a spare phone charger. If it hasn’t been used, check and restock your kit every six months so you are always prepared. Stay safe out there this winter!

**In the Know**

- The Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE) officially launched at the Consumer Electronics Show in January. PAVE is a coalition of industry, nonprofit and academic institutions with the goal of informing and educating the public and policymakers on the facts regarding automated vehicles so that they can fully participate in shaping the future of our roads and highways. The group plans to enhance public understanding of automated technology through “hands-on” demonstrations, educational toolkits, policy-maker workshops and other methods. Learn more about the coalition and its goals.
- In late December, NHTSA announced it would provide more than $100,000 in funding to several states to help law enforcement better address drug-impaired driving. GHSA reports that State Highway Safety Offices in Delaware, Guam, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Oklahoma and West Virginia will use the funding to provide additional Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training to more than 450 officers. This training is instrumental in removing drug-impaired drivers from the roads.
• The risks of motor vehicle crashes affect all road users, whether they’re drivers, passengers or pedestrians. According to new data from Injury Facts, bicycle deaths have increased 28% since 2010, a startling jump for some of our most vulnerable road users. As we work towards zero deaths on our roads, this is an issue we must prioritize. Take a look at the data to learn more.

• U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan recently introduced legislation that would require all new vehicles to include an ignition interlock device. Called the Abbas Stop Drunk Driving Act, named for a Michigan family who was killed after being struck by an alcohol-impaired driver, the legislation could help curb one of the leading hazards on our roads today. The Road to Zero coalition is a strong supporter of this legislation. You can learn more about this issue and help address this issue by signing on to support our Road to Zero priority statement on impairment, which calls for ignition interlock use for all first offender alcohol-impaired drivers and further development of DADSS (driver alcohol detection system for safety) technology.

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.

Register for Lifesavers

Lifesavers is the premier national highway safety meeting in the United States. For the past 37 years, Lifesavers has brought together dedicated highway safety professionals such as you to address a wide range of safety topics and offer solutions to today’s critical highway safety problems. The 2019 Lifesavers Conference will be held March 31 - April 2 at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville.

The 80+ workshops in 10 tracks, and 65+ exhibitors, will present proven programs that can be replicated in your community. And with nearly 2,000 highway safety professionals attending, you will be able to meet like-minded peers in a forum where you can share program successes, network, and develop alliances with people from all over the country.

For more information or to register, go to the conference website at www.lifesaversconference.org.