RTZ Meeting Next Month

Join us for the next Road to Zero Coalition meeting on Feb. 4. The meeting will be held from 1-4 p.m. ET at the National League of Cities, 660 North Capitol St. NW, Washington, DC.

RSVP now to help us get a headcount and share any updates you have with Road to Zero.

Can’t make it in person? The meeting will be available live via webcast. Sign up now and you’ll receive a link 48 hours prior to the event. Don’t miss out!

Upcoming RTZ Webinar
Wednesday, Jan. 22
Shifting the Paradigm: Systems Approaches to Road Safety in U.S. Cities, a Road to Zero Coalition Webinar

As pedestrian fatalities have continued to increase in the United States, cities and towns are learning that traditional approaches to improving safety are insufficient for responding to the problem.

Communities are recognizing the value in “Safe System” approaches that deploy comprehensive and sustained investment to protect vulnerable road users. With grant funds from the Road to Zero Coalition, America Walks partnered with the UNC Highway Safety Research Center in 2018 to provide training, technical assistance and mini grants to 12 U.S. communities to facilitate a shift toward Safe System approaches to solving the rise in pedestrian fatalities and injuries. With the right training and engagement, local governments and community partners strengthened their commitment to safety, enhanced coordination and technical skills needed to implement more evidence-based Safe System approaches, and hastened the pace on the Road to Zero.

This webinar will highlight successes and lessons learned from this program in 12 midsize U.S. cities, with the ultimate goal of reducing pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Communities will share their success stories and respond to attendees’ questions.

Get the webinar details now and take a look at all of our past Road to Zero webinars.

Safer Roads 2020

The Safer Roads 2020 International Conference is a triennial event for roadway safety professionals and transportation officials. The conference brings together industry leaders, government officials, corporate roadway department personnel and others in the roadway safety industry.

Safer Roads 2020 will feature five keynote speakers who will discuss the importance of breaking down communication silos to moving Toward Zero Deaths and completing Vision Zero initiatives. This is a
go-to event for anyone with the goal of achieving safer roads, where attendees will hear the latest industry developments from the U.S. and around the globe.

Keynote Speakers include:

- Jeffrey Paniati, U.S. Institute for Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- David Davies, U.K. Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS)
- Dia Gainor, U.S. National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO)
- David Harkey, U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and the Highway Loss Data Institute (IIHS-HLDI), and
- Colin Brodie, formerly of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA)

The conference will be held in conjunction with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Official's (AASHTO) Committee on Safety. The AASHTO group includes both policy and technical level within the state department of transportation (DOT), and represents the multidisciplinary approach to safety performance, including experience in engineering, enforcement, education, emergency medical service or incident response, and the use of data-driven safety evaluation, analysis, and diagnosis to identify and address the need to reduce crashes.

Register online now. Public agency officials and committee members receive discount pricing. Learn more.

News from the Hill

With the U.S. House of Representatives and the United States Senate passing a $1.37 trillion spending package on Dec. 17, 2019, the funding bill was then sent to President Trump for final sign-off on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019, with only hours to spare, preventing a government shutdown. The funding packages boost both domestic programs, such as the twelve federal agencies, as well as the military, keeping the government funded through Sept. 30, 2020. Some key highlights from the agreement include $25 million toward federal gun violence research and $1.5 billion in state grants to fight the opioid crisis. The bill also raised the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21.

Other funding highlights include:

- U.S. Department of Transportation—$86.2 billion
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) – $989 million
- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) – $679 million
- Federal Highway Administration—$46.3 billion

New Vision Zero Cities
Think Vision Zero is just for big, urban cities? Think again. A growing number of medium-sized and suburban communities are also embracing this Safe Systems approach to prioritizing safety for all road users, including places such as Montgomery County, Maryland; Fremont, California; and Orlando, Florida. Read more -- including best practices for suburbs -- in these recent Washington Post and Streetsblog USA articles.

You are also invited to join a free 1-hour webinar hosted by the Vision Zero Network: Not Just Big Cities: Vision Zero in Smaller & Suburban Communities, on Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. ET/ 11 a.m. PT. Register here and learn more about Vision Zero commitments across the U.S. at visionzeronetwork.org

In the Know

- New studies from IIHS reveal the rates at which safety features are making their way into new vehicles. Learn how government mandates, voluntary manufacturer commitments and independent safety ratings can all influence how quickly safety improvements are made and distributed into the U.S. fleet.

- A new CDC study found that in 2018, 12 million Americans aged 16 and older reported driving under the influence of marijuana and 2.3 million reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs other than marijuana during the past 12 months. Over 10,500 alcohol-impaired driving crash deaths occurred in 2018, and the contribution of drugs to these deaths and others remains unknown. The increased use of marijuana and other illicit drugs among American drivers highlights a need to develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to prevent alcohol-, drug-, and polysubstance-impaired driving.

- Older adults (65+ years of age) in the United States travel primarily in privately owned vehicles, and they are most often the driver. This dependence on driving can pose both safety and mobility concerns for older adults. There is a need to identify alternative transportation options that can improve safe mobility for older adults. To address this issue, CDC funded a study, resulting in a white paper titled “Environmental Scan of Ride Share Services Available for Older Adults.” The paper explores the potential for ride share services to promote older adult health and well-being by improving safe mobility. It was recently released by NORC at the University of Chicago and the Independent Transportation Network of America (ITNAmerica). Download the white paper here and share with your networks to help them better understand the potential for ride share services to improve mobility for older adults.

- Nominations are now open for the Teen Safety Award from the National Safety Council, which recognizes individuals, organizations or companies for their outstanding efforts to improve the safety of teenagers. Car crashes remain the leading cause of death for teens, but people all across the country are working to reverse this trend. Nominate someone today!
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.

**Standard ADAS Names**

Automotive technology continues to evolve quickly, with 93% of new vehicles offering at least one advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) feature. Earlier this year, AAA research found that consumers are faced with as many as 20 names for a single ADAS feature, varying by vehicle manufacturer. This can cause confusion. And while the technology has the potential to improve safety and save lives, the terminology often seems to prioritize marketing over clarity.

As a result, four organizations – AAA, Consumer Reports, J.D. Power and the National Safety Council – have come together to adopt standardized naming for ADAS technology in an effort to reduce confusion. To help educate consumers on the benefits, limitations and proper use of these technologies, the four organizations are calling on all safety organizations, automakers and journalists covering the automotive industry to join them in adopting these terms.

Take a look at the full list of standardized names and learn more about this effort to bring clarity to ADAS terminology. You can also visit MyCarDoesWhat.org to get information on the variety of safety features available on vehicles today.