Working Groups Update

As you have previously read, we are now shifting into gear for Road to Zero 2.0, wherein we will host fewer large meetings and allow members to focus attention and time instead on the Working Groups representing the three pillars from the Road to Zero Report:

- The Prioritizing Safety Work Group, led by Jeff Paniati with the Institute of Transportation Engineers, will have two subgroups: Safe Systems and Safety Culture.
- The Accelerating Advanced Technology Working Group, led by David Harkey with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, will focus on two areas: Established Technologies (making sure people use existing technology) and New Technologies.
- The Doubling Down on What Works Working Group, led by Dia Gainor with the National Association of State EMS Officials, will have six areas of emphasis, based on the Toward Zero Deaths Strategic Plan. The areas of emphasis are: (1) Safer Drivers and Passengers, (2) Safer Vulnerable Users, (3) Safer Vehicles, (4) Safer Infrastructure, (5) Enhanced Emergency Medical Services, and (6) Improved Safety Management.

Road to Zero Grants
June 30 marked the end of the grant year for the 2018 Road to Zero grants. We will be putting together a monthly webinar series featuring the grantees starting this fall. This will allow the grantees the opportunity to showcase their work and share it so that it might be replicated in other areas. Stay tuned for more details later this summer.

July 1 marked the beginning of the 2019 Road to Zero grants. We look forward to these projects getting underway.

State DOT Award Winners

Eight transportation projects from six western state Departments of Transportation recently received top honors in the regional ‘America’s Transportation Awards’ competition. Sponsored by AASHTO, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the 12th annual America’s Transportation Awards competition divides transportation projects up in three categories:

- Quality of Life/Community Development
- Best Use of Technology & Innovation
- Operations Excellence
The winners from the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials regional competition included the California, Washington State and Nebraska Departments of Transportation, among others. See the full list of winners and learn more about how they’re making a difference in transportation safety.

News from the Hill

On June 4, the House Appropriations Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development funding bill with a 29-21 vote. The bill provides DOT with $86.6 billion:

- $10 million to start a new Highly Automated Systems Safety Center of Excellence
- $48.9 billion for the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA)
- $677 million for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
- $1 billion for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

The bill report highlights the work of the Road to Zero Coalition with language urging FHWA, FMCSA, and NHTSA to continue their involvement with and support of the coalition. Subcommittee Chairman David Price (NC-04) introduced the bill to the full House on June 6. It will need a simple majority before being sent to the Senate for consideration.

Tips to Engage Your Community

Meaningful public engagement can make or break a roadway safety campaign, yet, it’s one area that often lacks time, attention and resources. In a recent Vision Zero webinar, Meaningful Community Engagement to Advance Vision Zero, experts from LADOT and the Safe Routes Partnership explain seven strong engagement strategies that prioritize equity and inclusivity on the path to safe mobility. Each of these strategies can help improve community support of transportation campaigns and shed light on unanticipated issues. Watch the webinar for full details.

In the Know

Conference season is upon us. Take a look below for the details on a number of conferences, summits and annual meetings on a variety of roadway safety topics. Reserve your spot now!

1. The International Association of Chiefs of Police is holding its 2019 Drugs, Alcohol & Impaired Driving (DAID) Conference in
Anaheim, CA, Aug. 10-12. The DAID Conference features a mix of plenary sessions and concurrent workshops designed to keep attendees up to date on the latest practices and science of impaired driving with a focus on drug impairment detection and recognition. See an agenda and get registered now.

2. Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the IACP’s annual conference, being held this October in Chicago. You can register now and make your plans for the most comprehensive law enforcement conference and exposition of the year.

3. The 2020 Lifesavers Conference, being held March 17-19 in Tampa, Florida, is accepting speaker proposals through September 6. Read the requirements and submit your proposal for the largest gathering of highway safety professionals in the U.S.

4. ITE is hosting its Annual Meeting this month in Austin, Texas. The meeting runs July 21-24, and will include a Vision Zero track. Take a look at the program and get registered.

5. The National League of Cities is bringing its annual City Summit to San Antonio this November. Preview the schedule, get registered and learn more here.

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 roadtzerzo@nsc.org. Include all relevant details, links, names, etc. and any special notes regarding the announcement.

Protect Kids from Hot Cars

Last year saw a record no one wanted to break: the highest recorded number of children killed in hot cars. As summer arrives in full force, we must all assume responsibility for protecting our most vulnerable passengers. A new, free digital training from the National Safety Council provides an overview of how this danger, explores how it occurs and lays out what we can do to prevent it.

Even on mild or cloudy days, temperatures inside vehicles can reach life-threatening levels and leaving windows slightly open doesn’t help. Children should never be left unattended or be able to get inside a vehicle.

Three primary circumstances resulting in deaths of children in hot cars are:

- A caregiver forgetting a child in a vehicle
- The child gaining access to the vehicle
- Someone knowingly leaving a child in the vehicle

NSC advises parents and caregivers to stick to a routine and avoid distractions to reduce the risk of forgetting a child. Place a purse, briefcase or even a left shoe in the back seat to force you to take one last look before walking away. Keep car doors locked so children cannot gain access, and teach them that cars are not play areas. Eleven children have already suffered this fate in 2019. Remember: there is no safe time to leave a child in a vehicle, even if you are just running a quick errand. Take the training and take action.