Stay up to Date with Road to Zero

The National Safety Council recently sent out a survey to all the RTZ Coalition members. Thanks to all who took the time to give us feedback on how we can best engage the Coalition moving forward. The survey also gave members an opportunity to indicate their participation interest for the working groups. If you did not fill out the survey and want to participate in a working group, you can email: roadtozero@nsc.org and indicate your working group choice:

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

We received 60 applications for the 2019 Road to Zero Grants. Reviewers have completed their reviews and we hope to announce the winners later this month. Thank you to all the reviewers who gave of their time and expertise.

Drive to Arrive Alive

NIOSH recently released a toolkit to promote road safety among law enforcement officers. The Officer Road Code Toolkit is designed to promote safe driving practices within an agency so that patrol officers operate by a unified code behind the wheel: Drive to Arrive Alive. The toolkit includes a manager sheet meant to help agency leadership incorporate the resources into their workplace, a month’s worth of safety messages and a decal for outdoor use. Take a look at the full toolkit and learn how these free resources can help save the lives of officers in your community.

News from the Hill

On Feb. 4, the National Transportation Safety Board released the 2019-2020 Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements. Released every two years, the Most Wanted List is the NTSB’s premier advocacy tool used to identify the most needed safety improvements across all modes of transportation.

The Road to Zero Coalition commends NTSB efforts in creating this list as it supports our shared goal of reaching zero. Eliminating distractions, ending alcohol and other drug impairment, and reducing fatigue-related accidents are just a few examples of items on the list that, if acted upon, will save lives and improve transportation safety. The Most Wanted List is a roadmap guiding us toward safer roads. The Road to Zero Coalition remains committed to helping the NTSB address each of these issues as our country strives for a future without roadway deaths.
New Speed Management Hub

The Speed Management for Safety resource hub is an interactive website on speed management for all transportation professionals seeking to safely manage speeds. The Institute of Transportation Engineers developed the resource hub, with funding provided by the Road to Zero Coalition, to provide transportation professionals with tools when considering the complex factors in advancing effective speed management and road design. Creating a comprehensive speed management program can be an element of a successful Vision Zero plan toward eliminating roadway-related fatalities in the United States by 2050.

The resource hub provides a comprehensive overview of factors and resources available to transportation professionals when evaluating, designing, implementing, and enforcing safe speeds. Areas of focus are centered on the topics of Speed as a Safety Problem, Setting Speed Limits, Measures for Managing Speed and Creating a Speed Management Program.

Part of the ITE Speed Management for Safety resource hub is a community portal where interested professionals can post questions, issues, success stories and even engage in dialogue on speed management issues. The community portal is open to the public and an ITE membership is not required to participate in the conversations. You can subscribe to the conversations by visiting https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/speedmanagement.

In the Know

1. The FIA Foundation recently launched the UN Global Road Safety Strategy in NYC on Feb 28 and will also be in attendance at SXSW March 9, in Austin. You are invited to attend Kids before Cars, Safe, Sustainable Urbanization, a presentation by Natalie Draisin on March 9 at 3:45pm, as well as the Smart Mobility Summit, where she will be presenting at 2:30pm.

2. Here are two updates from AAMVA: AAMVA’s new Electric Dockless Scooters Whitepaper addresses challenges and considerations related to this new, disruptive form of transportation. For questions regarding AAMVA’s stance on E-Scooters, please contact Casey Garber, Manager. And the Ignition Interlock Program Best Practices Guide was released in September 2018 as a tool for law enforcement and motor vehicle administrators regarding ignition interlock program responsibilities. The newly released accompanying video provides supplemental training and tips for law enforcement officers who encounter ignition interlock equipped vehicles at roadside. Through the work of AAMVA’s Ignition Interlock Program Best Practices Working Group, this best practice guide and video provide guidance for AAMVA member agencies that are legislatively charged with administering ignition interlock programs and to standardize program administration, terminology, and model enabling legislation.

3. In case you missed it, here is a piece highlighting the excessive dangers of arterial roadways and what can be done to improve them, from the former Executive Director of NACTO, Linda Bailey.

4. Preliminary estimates from the National Safety Council find that, for the first time since the Great Recession, the U.S. has experienced three straight years of at least 40,000 roadway deaths. Though the numbers decreased slightly – 1% compared to last year – they remain stubbornly high. Learn more and get additional resources to promote lifesaving solutions.
5. A new status report from IIHS finds that cellphone manipulation rates by drivers have increased 57 percent over a previous study in 2014. See the full findings.

6. MyMobility Plan, a new resource from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), can help older Americans plan for mobility changes that may come with age. MyMobility Plan provides resources and tips for older adults to help them manage their health to improve mobility, make their homes safer to prevent falls, and consider alternative transportation as they age so they can stay safe, mobile, and independent longer. Related content includes a supporting fact sheet about medicines and promotional materials.

7. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the National Safety Council is working all month long to promote the message: Just Drive. Updated materials will be available mid-March and you can share online with the hashtag #JustDrive. Get free resources to stay distraction-free and learn more at nsc.org/Justdrive.

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.

Dangerous by Design

Over the last decade, drivers struck and killed 49,340 people walking in communities across the U.S. To put that into perspective, it’s the equivalent of a jumbo jet full of people crashing—with no survivors—every month.

The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America and 2018 Road to Zero grantee, recently published Dangerous by Design 2019, a report that chronicles the preventable epidemic of pedestrian fatalities, which have been steadily increasing in recent years, even as traffic fatalities overall have been decreasing. This report ranks each state and the 100 most populous metro areas based on how deadly they are for people walking. It also examines which groups are disproportionately represented in pedestrian deaths: namely, older adults, people of color and people walking in lower income communities.

The report also includes recommendations for how to address this problem. Namely, updating the policies, standards, and funding mechanisms that have been in place for decades and that continue to produce dangerous roads that prioritize high speeds for cars over safety for all people. See the full report.