New Steering Group Members

The Road to Zero Steering Group is the leadership body for our Coalition. To allow for greater participation and to add new thought leaders, membership on the Steering Group rotates on a regular basis. The following organizations recently joined the Steering Group:

- FIA Foundation
- Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)
- National League of Cities (NLC)
- Trucking Alliance

A big thank you to the following organizations for their service on the Steering Group:

- Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
- Global Automakers
- Governors Highway Safety Association
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- National Association of County Engineers

Thank you to the four new organizations for stepping up to help lead the Road to Zero Coalition. We extend our appreciation to the five exiting organizations for their service, input and dedication to our goal of zero roadway deaths by 2050. As a result of your support, we were able to launch the Road to Zero and we look forward to continuing to work alongside you as part of the Coalition.

Preparing for Automated Vehicles

Autonomous vehicles promise to bring many mobility benefits and reduce traffic crashes, as 94% of crashes are estimated to involve driver error. However, there will continue to be crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving AVs, especially for the many years ahead when AVs share the road with vehicles driven by humans. A new report from the Governors Highway Safety Association, Preparing for Automated Vehicles: Traffic Safety Issues for States, funded by State Farm®, analyzes market trends and urges states not to ignore the human role in AV safety in the coming decades.

The report recommends what states should do to prepare for automated vehicle testing and operations, as well as an overview of the many behavioral traffic safety issues posed by AVs. Take a look at the full report to learn more.
Register for Vision Zero Cities 2018

On November 7 and 8, Transportation Alternatives will bring together leading industry and policy experts, advocates, elected officials and members of the public who are committed to Vision Zero at the fourth annual Vision Zero Cities Conference. The conference will take place at Columbia University’s Alfred Lerner Hall and there is still time to register. Keynote speakers will include Vishaan Chakrabarti, Olatunji Oboi Reed and Janette Sadik-Khan.

Registration options are available for one and two-day access, as well as a deluxe registration for two attendees. More information is available at VisionZeroCities.org.

News from the Hill

On Wednesday, August 1st, the United States Senate continued its work on appropriations bills by passing a “minibus” package of several individual bills, including the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill. After passing from the full Senate Appropriations Committee with unanimous support, the bill was approved by a vote of 92-6. The bill includes funding for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ($956.308 million), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ($666.8 million) and Federal Highway Administration ($49.3 billion), with funding differences between the House and Senate remaining to be reconciled in conference committee.

NHTSA continues to move forward with its renewed focus on impaired driving, with billboards spotted in the DC area just last month. Whether prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, alcohol or drugs, “If you feel different, you drive different.”

In the Know

Here are some updates, findings and news from your fellow Road to Zero Coalition members and the transportation industry. 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. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has begun a national conversation to receive broad input on key areas of interest and prepare FHWA programs and policies to incorporate
automation considerations. The National Dialogue on Highway Automation is a series of meetings held across the country to facilitate information sharing, identify key issues, and support the transportation community to safely and efficiently integrate automated vehicles into the road network. Participants include the public, stakeholders involved in the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of U.S. roads, as well as automotive makers and technology providers. Click through for upcoming dates and more information.

2. Older drivers are often at greater risk of injury or death in a crash, yet nearly 83 percent report never speaking to a family member or physician about their safe driving ability, according to new research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. AAA urges seniors to begin planning for “driving retirement” at the same time they begin planning for retirement from work. With more focus, this could help reduce the more than 200,000 drivers ages 65 and older who were injured in a crash in 2016, and the more than 3,500 who were killed. Take a look at the research and get tips from AAA so you are prepared to have this discussion with the older drivers in your life.

3. Coalition member Our Driving Concern Texas recently highlighted how one person’s dedication to safety can have an impact on hundreds of others. An Austin Public Works Department member sought out National Safety Council Senior Program Manager of Our Driving Concern Lisa Robinson for insight into broadening the department’s transportation safety program. After the discussion, Lisa was delighted to return six months later to find that Austin Public Works Department preventable collisions had dropped by 50% since the start of the year compared to 2017. Read the whole story and get inspired!

4. New research from IIHS shows how lowering the speed limit by 5 mph on city streets can improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists by reducing speeding. The study focused on Boston, which lowered the default speed limit on city streets from 30 mph to 25 mph on January 9, 2017 and has since seen a 29% decrease in the estimated odds of a vehicle exceeding 35 mph. This could be an excellent tactic for cities looking to protect pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. Take a look at the full findings.

5. Around the country, communities will celebrate National Walk to School Day in October. These events can be a great opportunity for elected officials to talk about their priority for child pedestrian safety and how it relates to Vision Zero. Find an event or read how to plan one in seven days. While October 10 is the official day, communities hold events throughout the month. Last year more than 5,600 schools from all U.S. states celebrated Walk to School Day and 65% of surveyed organizers said their events led to policy or engineering changes in their communities.

6. The National Safety Council is looking for a new team member with experience in transportation safety. NSC is hiring a Senior Curriculum Development Specialist, Transportation Safety, to serve as the subject matter expert for all NSC Driver Safety Training Programs. Learn more about the position and apply here.

7. Congratulations to Coalition Member Safe States Alliance on their 25th anniversary. Safe States offers a number of helpful resources for driving down traffic deaths and injuries, from an Evaluation Guide for Pedestrian Safety to a Safe, Healthy and Active Transportation Toolkit. Congratulations and thank you for your efforts to save lives!
8. The Safer Roads International Conference, a triennial event for roadway design, maintenance and safety professionals, has issued a call for proposals for the upcoming conference. The event takes place May 12-14, 2020 in Richmond, VA. Your ideas are needed! Take a look at the submission process and get your proposal in now.

9. Submissions are now being accepted for the National Safety Council Green Cross for Safety Awards. These awards recognize individuals and organizations for their contributions to the advancement of safety in the workplace, on the road, and in homes and communities. Get more information and apply at nsc.org.

National Teen Driver Safety Week

The last full week in October (21-27) marks National Teen Driver Safety Week. During this week, we place a special focus on the safety of teen drivers and urge all parents to double down on their efforts to educate and protect the teen drivers in their lives. NHTSA offers a variety of free materials for parents to use, including fact sheets detailing the biggest risks to teen drivers. The National Safety Council also offers resources for parents through DriveitHOME.org, from weekly blog posts to the New Driver Deal, a parent-teen safe driving agreement.