New RTZ Webinar Series

Get ready for Road to Zero Wednesdays, a new webinar series featuring the winners of our Safe System Innovation Grants. Starting Wednesday, Sept. 25, Road to Zero will produce a new webinar on the third Wednesday of each month featuring our grant winners and their efforts to improve roadway safety, as well as other topics of interest to the Road to Zero community.

Our inaugural webinar will showcase Jim Fell with NORC at University of Chicago. NORC was a year-two grant winner focused on Underutilized Strategies to Reduce Roadway Fatalities.

IMPORTANT: Registration for the webinar may take up to two days. Register today to secure your spot.

As we continue to work toward zero deaths on our roads, outward communication is essential to informing the public of this mission and getting broad support. Our Communications Toolkit has been updated to reflect our latest grant winners, Road to Zero plans and the future of the Working Groups. Whether you’re a new Coalition member or have been a part of this journey since the beginning, we encourage you to look through the updated Toolkit and find a new way to promote our goal of zero roadway fatalities by 2050.

New Speed Safety Resources

The Institute of Transportation Engineers added some new resources to its Speed Management for Safety Resource Hub. The new resources include articles on speed management from ITE Journal, new case studies, and recent webinars hosted by ITE and the Vision Zero Network on speed management. Resources also have been added to the Speeding as a Safety Problem, Setting Speed Limits, and Measures for Managing Speed sections of the resource hub. Check it out today!

News from the Hill

Here are some details on leadership changes at U.S. DOT:

- Heidi King, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration acting administrator, has resigned from the department. James Owens, U.S. DOT deputy general counsel, will replace King as deputy administrator effective August 31.
- Brandye Hendrickson, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) deputy administrator, left to become the deputy director at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation
Officials. Mala Parker, formerly the associate administrator for highway policy and external affairs, will serve as the new deputy administrator at FHWA.

- Cheryl Walker has been named as the new associate administrator for safety for FHWA. Walker replaces Beth Alicandri, who retired earlier this year.

The Road to Zero Coalition looks forward to working with these new partners (or in some cases familiar partners in new roles) as we continue our mission of eliminating preventable deaths on the roads.

Webinar to Engage Youth

On Sept. 5, attend a free webinar hosted by Safe Routes Partnership and Vision Zero Network to learn how to engage and empower youth in Vision Zero initiatives. Panelists will share their experience building effective partnerships between schools and community organizations to create youth-centered safety programs. The 1-hour webinar, Building Our Future: Engaging and Empowering Youth in Vision Zero, starts at 1 p.m. EST. Register now.

In the Know

- October 2 is National Walk to School Day, a day to highlight the importance of safety for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. This is an excellent opportunity to engage your local community in traffic safety. Register an event and learn more.
- Two publications presented new research on driver habits. The first, a report on a study funded by the CDC, found that about one in four injured drivers aged 16-20 in Arizona tested positive for alcohol, marijuana or both. The second provides new research on how a driver’s seat belt habits can influence how often their passengers buckle up.
- The annual Vision Zero Cities conference is coming to New York City Oct. 10-11. All stakeholders are invited, including policymakers, law enforcement, community-based advocates, and transportation and public health professionals. Register today.
- The 2019 NSC Congress & Expo runs Sept. 6-12 in San Diego. If you can’t attend, follow online for updates from the world’s largest annual safety conference.
- Road safety and the call for a Global Summit on Adolescent Health will be featured at the UN General Assembly Sept. 17-30. Make your voice heard at the UN by joining the call for the Summit, and check out related events by following @FIAFdn and @ChildHealthGI on Twitter.

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.
Improve Bike Lane Safety

As bicycling becomes more popular across the country, cities and towns must put additional focus on the safety of these vulnerable roadway users. Though you might think all bike lanes are similar, new research from IIHS finds that not all bike lane implementations are equal for safety. Factors such as the number of driveways or alleys intersecting the lanes and whether the lanes are one- or two-direction affect the likelihood of a crash or fall. Hundreds of bicyclists are killed in crashes each year, so we must take action now to keep them safe. Learn more about the study and what cities should consider when implementing protected bike lanes.