



National Safety Council

Position/Policy Statement

Highway Safety Program

The National Safety Council urges the U.S. DOT to set the following goals and establish the following policies:

1. A national highway safety goal should be established to reduce each year the mileage death rate and the total number of traffic crash fatalities to a level below that of the previous year. A nationally coordinated plan to achieve this goal should be developed and implemented immediately.
2. Highway safety should be given greater prominence through administrative and funding measures which will enhance the highway safety agency's policy and programmatic role and leadership within the U.S. Department of Transportation.
3. Highway research and safety program funding should be significantly increased from current levels in the next Federal-Aid Highway Program, with comparable and specific allocations of funding to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
4. In the next Federal-aid Highway Program, categorical highway safety construction programs, such as the Hazard Elimination and Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Safety Programs should be continued.
5. NHTSA should continue an aggressive program to validate existing driver and vehicle standards, as well as to explore ways and means to make existing standards more safety productive.
6. NHTSA should consider the importance and sometimes adverse effects that vehicle and/or driver standards have on the highway system. NHTSA should also investigate alternative safety programs and new options to improve overall performance of existing standards. This should be accomplished by improved coordination among the automobile industry, FHWA, and the states to assess system impacts of proposed driver or vehicle standards with roadside safety standards.

This position statement reflects the opinions of the National Safety Council but not necessarily those of each member organization.

Adopted by the Committee on the Roadway Environment, August 1, 1989

Adopted as revised by the HTSD Executive Committee, August 23, 1989