U.S. DOT
National Roadway Safety Strategy

March 10, 2022
Chou-Lin Chen, Ph.D.
The Foundation at U.S. DOT: Safety

**Mission**: To ensure our Nation has the safest, most equitable, reliable, and modern transportation system in the world to increase economic strength, improve climate outcomes, and build global competitiveness for the American people.
Our Vision

**Zero** is the only acceptable number of deaths on our highways, roads, and streets.

The United States Department of Transportation is committed to taking substantial, comprehensive action to significantly reduce serious and fatal injuries on the Nation’s roadways.

At USDOT, we support all efforts to achieve zero.
National Roadway Safety Strategy

U.S. DOT’s comprehensive approach to significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation’s highways, roads, and streets.

- Sets a Department-wide vision and goal
- Adopts the Safe System Approach
- Identifies new priority actions and notable changes to existing practices
- Leverages new funding and policies in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to bring this strategy to life
- Advances equity and climate goals
- Calls others to action
The USDOT adopts the Safe System Approach

**Principles**

- Deaths and serious injuries are unacceptable
- Humans make mistakes
- Humans are vulnerable
- Responsibility is shared
- Safety is proactive
- Redundancy is critical
Our Roadway Safety Problem
We have a National Roadway Safety Problem

Roadway fatalities and the fatality rate declined consistently for 30 years...

...but progress has stalled over the last decade...

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System
The crisis on our roadways continues to worsen based on an early estimate of roadways fatalities in 2021:

| Early Estimates of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities, first three quarters, 2020 vs. 2021 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 28,325 | 31,720 | 12.0% |

The estimated fatalities for the first three quarters of 2021 is the largest number of projected fatalities in that time period since 2006.

We have a National Roadway Safety Problem

Fatalities among all users have been increasing.
Fatalities among pedestrians and bicyclists have been increasing even faster.

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System
We have a National Roadway Safety Problem

Fatalities and fatal crashes occur disproportionately - by both population and vehicle travel – on rural roads.
The National Roadway Safety Strategy
USDOT will leverage the funding and policies in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to bring this strategy to life:

- Nearly $14 billion in NEW funding for road safety including:
  - $6 billion authorized for a new Safe Streets and Roads for All program to fund local efforts to reduce crashes and fatalities
  - ~ $4 billion added to HSIP
  - ~ $4 billion for improved data collection, vehicle safety programs, and truck safety
To address roadway safety, we require a holistic, comprehensive approach.

Objectives correspond to the Safe System Approach elements:

- Safer People
- Safer Roads
- Safer Vehicles
- Safer Speeds
- Post-Crash Care
Encourage safe, responsible behavior by people who use our roads and create conditions that prioritize their ability to reach their destination unharmed.
Design roadway environments to mitigate human mistakes and account for injury tolerances, to encourage safer behaviors, and to facilitate safe travel by the most vulnerable users.
Safer Vehicles

Expand the availability of vehicle systems and features that help to prevent crashes and minimize the impact of crashes on both vehicle occupants and non-vehicle occupants.
Safer Speeds

Promote safer speeds in all roadway environments through a combination of thoughtful, context-appropriate roadway design, targeted education and outreach campaigns, and enforcement.
Post-Crash Care

Enhance the survivability of crashes through expedient access to emergency medical care. Create a safe working environment for vital first responders and preventing secondary crashes through robust traffic incident management practices.
Learn more about the National Roadway Safety Strategy

www.transportation.gov/NRSS