



June 8, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Chairwoman  
U.S. House Committee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, Chairwoman Norton, and Ranking Member Davis:

On behalf of the National Safety Council (NSC), thank you for including key roadway safety provisions in the draft *Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America* (INVEST in America) Act. NSC appreciates the attention you gave to improving safety for all road users.

NSC is America's leading nonprofit safety advocate and has been for over 100 years. As a mission-based organization, we work to eliminate the leading causes of preventable death and injury, focusing our efforts on the workplace, roadway and impairment. We create a culture of safety to keep people safer at work and beyond the workplace so they can live their fullest lives. Our more than 15,000 member companies, including federal agencies, represent seven million employees at nearly 50,000 U.S. worksites.

The attention given to safety in this reauthorization could not come at a more important time. Preliminary NSC estimates show that 42,060 people died in motor vehicle crashes in 2020.<sup>1</sup> This represents an 8% increase in fatalities and a 24% increase in the fatality rate from 2019. Another recent study showed that pedestrian fatalities have continued to climb in the past year.<sup>2</sup> Each of these deaths was preventable.

NSC leads the Road to Zero Coalition, a diverse group of over 1,600 organizational members committed to eliminating roadway fatalities by 2050. The coalition represents transportation organizations, businesses, academia, safety advocates and others – the first time so many organizations and individuals have collaborated to put forth a plan to address fatalities on our roads.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nsc.org/newsroom/motor-vehicle-deaths-2020-estimated-to-be-highest>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ghsa.org/resources/Pedestrians21>



To these members and to NSC, “zero” is not just a catchphrase, but an attainable and necessary goal to eliminate roadway fatalities. If we are to reach zero, a multifaceted approach is required, including doubling down on what works, accelerating advanced vehicle technology and prioritizing safety through a safe system approach. Thank you for all the provisions in your draft bill that support this roadmap.

NSC is particularly pleased to see several key safety issues addressed in the INVEST Act, including adopting a safe system approach, combating excessive speeding, distracted driving, and impaired driving, supporting automated enforcement, and addressing pediatric vehicular heatstroke and child passenger safety. We also appreciate that your bill provides flexibility in the highway safety improvement program and the added focus on pedestrian and cyclist safety. As discussed at the February 2021 hearing, we appreciate the expansion of the 1906 grant program, including allowing states to access funds for more than two years. We hope you can work together to ensure that these provisions are included in any surface transportation bill that advances out of this Committee.

Thank you for your leadership. I am pleased that NSC is able to extend our support to your proposed reauthorization bill. I look forward to continuing our work together to improve safety on our roadways and save lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorraine M. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lorraine M. Martin  
President and CEO