

July 22, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As roadway safety advocates, we urge you to nominate Administrators for two key roadway safety roles—the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). NHTSA has not had a confirmed leader since 2017.

In 2020, we experienced over a 7% increase in deaths and a historic 23% increase in death rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. 38,680 people went for a drive, walk, bike ride or chose another way to be mobile and never returned home. This occurred at a time when vehicle miles travelled dropped due to stay-at-home orders, when some expected that we would see fewer deaths as a result. In addition to the fatalities, 4.5 million people experienced life-altering injuries in crashes in 2019. This persistent and urgent issue deserves our attention, and committed and confirmed leadership at the top levels of government.

We need qualified, safety-focused nominated leaders at FHWA and NHTSA to shepherd safety improvements through the U.S. Department of Transportation and negotiate with Congress as it considers an infrastructure investment bill and the reauthorization of the surface transportation programs. Additionally, these leaders are needed to oversee the billions of dollars in funding that are delivered to program administrators at the local and state levels and set the tone for how these programs will be administered. Without them, we are missing key opportunities to advance safety provisions for all roadway users to save lives and stop the pain felt by loved ones across the country

We urge your action on this request as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
American Traffic Safety Services Association
American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)
Center for Auto Safety
Families for Safe Streets
ITE
National Association of County Engineers
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Safety Council
SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)
Vision Zero Network