



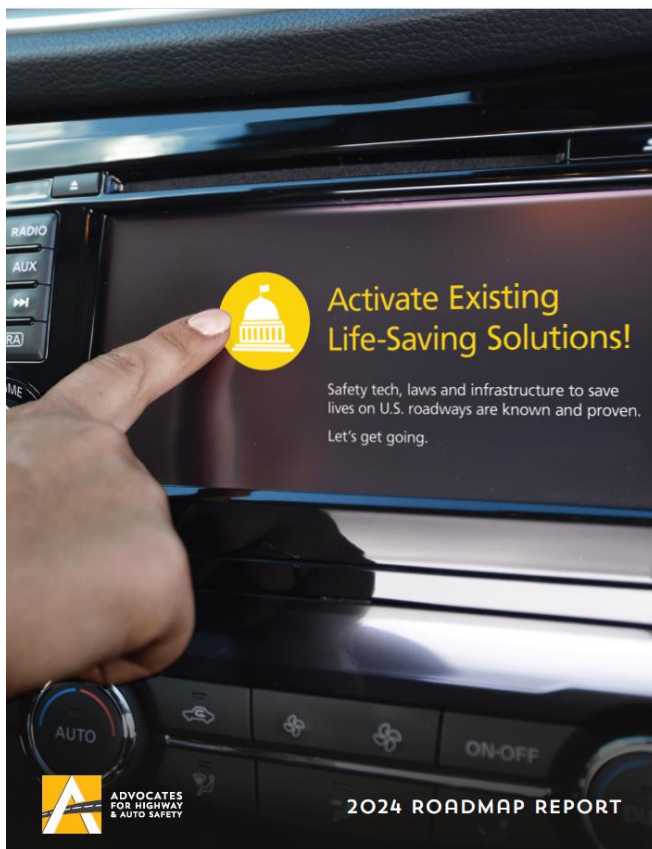
ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, December 5, 2023
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Roadmap to Safety Report Details a Comprehensive Plan to Prevent Crashes, Fatalities and Injuries

With 118 people killed on our nation's roadways every day, leaders at all levels of government must urgently use available solutions to save lives.



Today, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates) was joined by U.S. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), law enforcement, and public health and insurance leaders to release the 2024 [Roadmap to Safety](#) (Report). This comprehensive tool provides a guide for state legislatures, Congress, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to reverse the trend of skyrocketing deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2021, the most recent year with finalized fatality numbers, more than 118 people were killed in crashes each day on average and a further 6,800 were injured. Preliminary numbers for 2022 and the first half of 2023 remain historically high. Speeding, impaired driving, distraction, and not buckling up are contributing to these devastating figures; however, proven solutions are available to stop the slaughter on our nation's roadways. Advocates and safety partners call on our nation's state and federal leaders to follow the roadmap outlined in this Report.

Cathy Chase, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety: “Advocates is proud to unveil the 2024 *Roadmap to Safety*. For more than two decades, Advocates has issued this report as a ‘how to’ guide and a ‘call to action’ for legislative and regulatory officials. The situation on our roadways is horrific as tens of thousands die and even more are injured in crashes every year that are totally preventable. In addition to human suffering, crashes have a significant financial impact, costing approximately \$340 billion per year. This means that every person living in the U.S. in essence pays an annual ‘crash tax’ of \$1,035. Safety technology, laws and infrastructure improvements are known and proven, yet severely underutilized. We have the ability to solve this public health crisis by enacting the solutions in this report. Let’s get going!”

U.S. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure: “Thanks to the determined efforts of the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, I’m hopeful that we can get ourselves on track to eliminating roadway deaths. Now is not the time to turn on cruise control when it comes to traffic safety. Now is the time to follow the directions of the 2024 *Roadmap to Safety* towards our desired destination: ZERO road fatalities.”

Mary Jagim, Past President of the Emergency Nurses Association, Consumer Co-Chair: “Emergency Department nurses experience the aftermath of vehicle crashes up close and in vivid detail. We are trained for these sorts of emergencies, but that does not make them any less traumatic. In 2021, 12,330 people were killed in speed-related crashes, a shocking number. Automated enforcement, which uses cameras to take images of vehicles that violate speed limits, is one proven method of deterring excessive speed. Despite this, less than half of the states are availing themselves of this safety tool. Emergency nurses advocate for preventative measures with the goal of keeping people from needing to go to emergency departments. This includes championing the research and experience-driven countermeasures included in Advocates’ *Roadmap to Safety*.”

Deputy Chief Mike Rodriguez, Buffalo Grove (IL) Police Department: “As a police officer and passionate advocate for traffic safety, I am very proud to be a part of the release of the 2024 *Roadmap to Safety* report. If we truly care about the safety of all children in all communities, we must push as hard as we can to make these recommendations a reality. For young children, this means supporting comprehensive child passenger seat and seat belt use laws and requiring occupant detection and alert technology to prevent ‘hot car’ deaths and injuries. For teen drivers, these recommendations include graduated driver licensing programs, known as GDL, that allow for the phasing in of full driving privileges. They ensure that young drivers are introduced to more driving experience over time and in lower risk settings. We must do everything we can to protect these young lives, including enacting the solutions in this report.”

Tess Rowland, President, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD): “There are laws that states can pass right now to help stop this crisis on our roads, and the Advocates’ “Roadmap to Safety” report tells us what proven measures can be put in place. These laws, such as requiring all convicted drunk drivers to install an ignition interlock on their cars, making it illegal to have an open container of alcohol in a vehicle, and lowering state BAC laws to .05, are backed by research and data. They work. And we need government at all levels to embrace what works. That starts with every state enacting the lifesaving laws spotlighted in this report to combat impaired driving.”

Matt Gannon, Head of Federal Affairs, Farmers Insurance, Advocates’ Insurance Co-Chair: “As has been said, ‘the simplest solution is almost always the best.’ This certainly applies to protecting yourself in the event of a crash. Buckling up is our simplest and first line of defense. Unfortunately, not everyone does so, and, to their peril. Primary enforcement seat belt laws for all vehicle occupants need to be enacted, but right now, only 21 states and D.C. have this law. Another simple and commonsense solution to a serious risk is wearing a helmet when riding a motorcycle, yet only 17 states and D.C. have all-rider helmet laws, and these laws are threatened every year in state legislatures. On the federal level, proven safety technologies like anti-lock braking systems should be required on all new motorcycles. We must get going now on these simple solutions to save as many lives as we can.”

Report Findings: Advocates' *Roadmap to Safety* gives every state and Washington, DC a rating in six categories (Occupant Protection, Child Passenger Safety, Young Drivers, Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving and Automated Enforcement to Curb Speed) as well as an overall grade of "green," "yellow," and "red," reflecting each state's progress, or lack thereof, toward achieving the optimal laws.

Six states (LA, MD, NY, OR, RI, WA) and DC receive the highest rating of "green," while 10 states earn a "red" rating for lagging dangerously behind in the adoption of Advocates' recommended laws (FL, ID, MI, MO, MT, NE, NV, OK, SD, WY). To see the list of "green" and "red" states in this year's report [click here](#). The remaining 34 states receive a "yellow" or caution rating, indicating that improvement is needed.

Opportunities for state legislative improvement in 2024:

No state has enacted all 16 of Advocates' optimal countermeasures. Based on Advocates' safety recommendations, states across the nation need to adopt 488 laws.

- 15 states need an optimal primary enforcement seat belt law for front seat passengers.
- 29 states need an optimal primary enforcement seat belt law for rear seat passengers.
- 33 states need an optimal all-rider motorcycle helmet law.
- 30 states need a rear facing through age 2 or older law.
- 34 states and DC need an optimal booster seat law.
- 48 states and DC need an optimal rear seat through age 12 law.
- 186 GDL laws need to be adopted to ensure the safety of novice drivers; no state meets all the criteria recommended in this report.
- 32 critical impaired driving laws are needed in 28 states.
- 4 states need an optimal all-driver text messaging restriction.
- 21 states need a GDL cell phone restriction.
- 24 states need to permit automated enforcement by law.
- 30 states do not have automated enforcement in use.

A comprehensive approach to safety that prioritizes safe vehicles, safe road users, and safe roadway infrastructure – as has been the foundation of Advocates' mission since our founding in 1989 – is the clear path to eliminating the preventable physical, emotional and economic toll crashes impose.

[*Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety*](#) is an alliance of consumer, medical, public health, law enforcement and safety groups and insurance companies and agents working together to make America's roads safer. Advocates' mission is the adoption of federal and state laws, policies and programs that prevent motor vehicle crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, and contain costs.

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