

# 20 21

# MILESTONES AT NHTSA

DOT HS 813 299  
May 2022

NHTSA's mission is to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce economic costs due to road traffic crashes, through education, research, safety standards, and enforcement. Over the last year, in the face of rapidly evolving vehicle technology, unique safety challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the urgent need to address climate change and equity, NHTSA responded with swift and steadfast resolve to fulfil our mission. As the Nation's highway safety agency, we took essential measures to help all Americans drive, ride, and walk safely.

From overseeing more than a thousand safety recalls affecting 22.8 million vehicles, to finalizing occupant protection rulemaking for ADS vehicles, and improving Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards, the agency stayed focused on the most important thing: safety.



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**



# SOME OF THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SEEN SINCE JANUARY 2021:

## Advanced the safety and facilitated the development of ADAS/ADS technology with historic actions

- Issued the Standing General Order establishing a first-of-its-kind, mandatory reporting system for incident reporting related to both Advanced Driver Assistance Systems and Automated Driving Systems (June 2021).
- Announced the Nation's first recall of an ADS due to a software defect in certain Pony.ai models (March 2022).
  - ♦ Initiated an Audit Query and subsequent Recall Query to look at the scope and remedy of the software recall.
- Initiated formal rulemaking to establish the Nation's first safety standard for advanced driver assistance technology by developing performance criteria for light-vehicle Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) and pedestrian AEB (June 2021).
- Initiated formal rulemaking to establish the Nation's first safety standard for advanced driver assistance technology by developing performance criteria for heavy-duty vehicle AEB (June 2021).
- Hosted NHTSA Safety Research Portfolio Public Meeting in fall 2021 with 15 sessions and 566 virtual registrants.
- Finalized a rule to allow intuitive Adaptive Driving Beam headlight technology, satisfying a requirement in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) more than a year and a half ahead of schedule (February 2022).
- Established occupant protection safety standards for ADS (March 2022), the agency's first final rulemaking related to ADS.
- Continued engagement with manufacturers, States, and critical stakeholders via the AV-TEST and PARTS programs.



## Supported the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to climate change

- Proposed and then finalized new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for model years (MY) 2024-2026 in direct response to President Biden's Executive Order 13990 and the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to promote and protect public health and the environment (August 2021).
- Repealed the SAFE I Rule that sought to preempt States from setting their own greenhouse gas emissions standards and zero-emissions vehicle mandates (December 2021).
- Initiated rulemaking on CAFE standards for MY 2027 and for heavy-duty vehicles.

## Published rulemaking to increase accessibility for drivers and passengers with disabilities

- Finalized a new rule related to rental vehicles that would improve equity and mobility for drivers and passengers with disabilities, ensuring access to transportation for everyone (March 2022).

## Published rulemaking to finalize standards

- Finalized a new rule that modifies the visual inspection interval for CNG fuel containers on heavy vehicles that reduces the number of visual inspections per year for CNG containers on heavy vehicles without a reduction in safety and resulting in an annual cost savings of \$52.4 million to \$83.8 million.
- Finalized a rule creating a new Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) for rollover structural integrity requirements for motorcoaches and large buses with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 26,000 pounds. The first new FMVSS since 2015.
- Finalized a rule that amended NHTSA's regulation on anthropomorphic test devices to add design and performance specifications for a test dummy representing a 3-year-old child, called the "Q3s" test dummy, an instrumented dummy that can assess the performance of child restraint systems in protecting small children in side impacts.
- Finalized a rule to establish a limited exemption program for replica motor vehicles produced by low-volume manufacturers. This rule will help support small businesses and meet the demand for collectible replicas of classic vehicles.





## Proposed updates to the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) 5-Star Safety Ratings program (March 2022)

- The proposal includes a 10-year roadmap for the program as set forth in the BIL. Includes increased performance levels for current ADAS criteria and recommends the addition of four new ADAS technologies. The proposal also requests public comment on ways to develop a meaningful ratings system for ADAS technologies. This will be the first major update to NCAP since 2013.

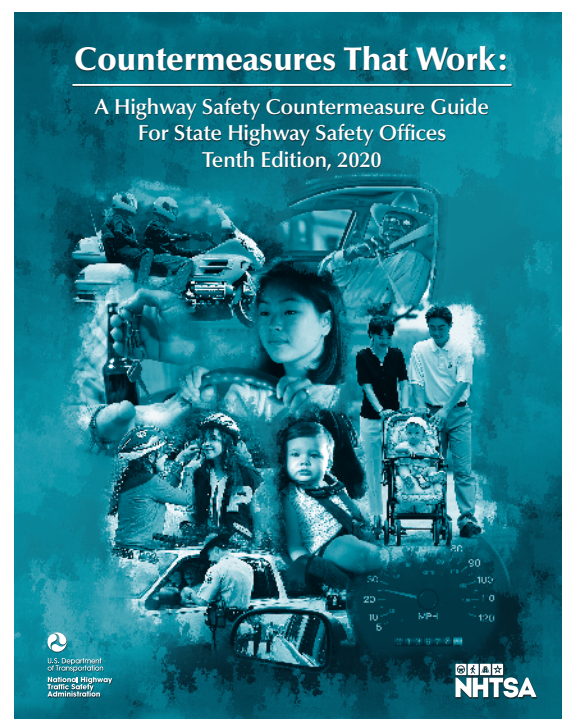


## Made critical strides in highway safety education and research

- Launched an influencer campaign in collaboration with Jason Fenske, which included a video series that builds on the "Your Car Needs You" social media ads (May 2021).
- Launched new yearlong \$1.25 million digital paid media campaign to help drivers learn about the safety benefits of advanced driver-assistance technologies in newer vehicles (March 2022).
- Kicked off a \$12 million *Drive Sober* paid media campaign, including a new advertisement aimed at motorcyclists

(August-September 2021), and a \$10 million holiday campaign to highlight enforcement efforts and encourage drivers to make a plan for a sober ride into the New Year (December 2021).

- Released nearly 60 behavioral safety research publications, including:
  - Special reports which propelled the national conversation about traffic safety during the COVID-19 public health emergency: [Fourth Quarter Data](#) (June 2021) and [January – June 2021](#) (October 2021)
  - The 10th edition of [Countermeasures That Work](#), a reference guide to assist State Highway Safety Offices and other highway safety professionals in selecting effective, evidence-based countermeasures for traffic safety problems (July 2021).
  - [Evaluation of Utah's .05 BAC Per Se Law](#), which found that traffic deaths in Utah decreased, and more drivers said they arranged for sober rides home, when the State lowered its impaired driving legal limit from .08 to .05 grams per deciliter (February 2022).



## Enforced vehicle safety, issued recalls, and provided consumer education

- Oversaw 1,093 vehicle safety and equipment recalls in 2021 affecting 22.8 million vehicles – the highest number in a single year.
  - Issued consumer alerts to help vehicle owners stay up-to-date on important safety-related information.
- Launched the recall dashboard, making 50 years of recall data readily available to the public (July 2021).
- Made first whistleblower award of over \$24 million for information related to Hyundai and Kia violating the Safety Act (November 2021).
  - The information played a key role in an investigation into a fire-related defect that resulted in the recall of about 500,000 vehicles and the issuance of a “park outside” order (February 2022).
  - The agency took steps to enhance the transparency of the whistleblower program via a new streamlined webpage (June 2021).
- Provided grants to States to facilitate recall notifications with registration renewal notices.
- Announced penalties against five registered importers for violating Federal safety requirements for importing vehicles (December 2021).
- Conducted criminal investigations into alleged odometer fraud violations in 45 cases, securing 18 Federal felony convictions in Arkansas, California, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas since February 2021.

## Improved traffic safety data collection, analysis and services

- Produced quarterly fatality estimate reports and special sub-category estimate reports to provide timely information during the COVID-19 public health emergency for 2020 and 2021.
- Completed landmark analysis on the relative disparity of female fatality risk for similar impact types.
- Deployed three new visualization tools: children, motorcycles, and speeding.
- Completed 12 traffic records assessments.
- Conducted two national surveys in 2021: NOPUS and NSUBS
- Conducted two special studies: Medium Truck Special Study and the Pedestrian and Pedalcyclist Special Study
- National Driver Register (NDR) processed 159,091,460 interactive (real-time) inquiries from State driver licensing agencies and 33,979,217 batch inquiries from Coast Guard, FAA, USMC, and States.
- Developed recurring surveillance reports for occurrences of fire among electric vehicles as well as crashes involving L2 vehicles.
- Published 16 Traffic Safety Fact Sheets, 21 analysis reports, and 79 special crash investigation reports.
- Supported the agency’s regulatory activities with timely Final Regulatory Impact Analysis and Evaluation reports:
  - Replica Vehicles
  - Advanced Driving Systems, 200 series
  - Large Bus Structural Integrity
  - CAFE for light vehicles
  - Evaluation of FMVSS 216 Roof Crush Resistance Report
  - Evaluation of Child Safety Seats Report

## Provided funding and other resources for State safety programs

- Collaborated with State and local governments – many of which were facing new highway safety challenges during the pandemic – to promote safety initiatives and provide support.
- Issued more than \$650 million in FY 2021 highway safety grant funds. Issued \$260 million in FY 2022 partial year grant funds made possible by the BIL.
- Issued \$65.7 million in contracts and cooperative agreements to support behavioral safety research and development.
- Facilitated funding to federally recognized Indian Tribes to assist with traffic safety projects.
- Facilitated 24 [safety program assessments](#): 13 occupant protection, 5 traffic records, 4 pedestrian and bicyclist, and 2 driver education.
- Supported, via contract with the Governors Highway Safety Association, a [Professional](#)

[Development Conference](#) for Judicial Outreach Liaisons, Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs), and Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors from around the country (August 2021). The virtual meeting spanned 5 days and included sessions on equity. The contract also supported monthly webinars to educate the LEL network and strengthen national enforcement mobilizations.

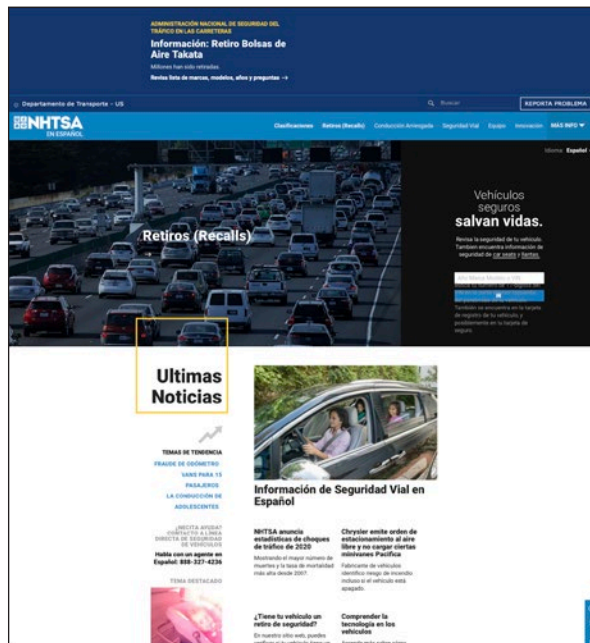
- Received and reviewed 326 FY 2022 formula grant applications submitted by State Highway Offices.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive Quality Management oversight program designed to improve consistency, adherence to requirements, and adoption of best practices through the implementation, documentation, and tracking of required grant recipient monitoring activities.
- Issued and implemented CARES Act Grant Program Waivers for FY 2021.





## Added resources for Spanish speakers

- Launched the Spanish-language website, NHTSA en Español, making consumer safety information readily accessible to Spanish speakers (September 2021).
- Initiated targeted outreach strategy for Hispanic media outlets, including translating all press material into Spanish.



## Strengthened America's 911 and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems

- Hosted two public meetings of the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS and a series of eight listening sessions on the EMS and 911 response to the pandemic.
- Renewed the charter of the National EMS Advisory Council (April 2021) and hosted three meetings.
- Administered the \$109 million 911 Grant Program, which supports 34 States and 2 tribal nations. The Nation's 911 public safety answering points respond to more than 200 million calls per year.
- Published the 2021 edition of the National EMS Education Standards, which are the basis for the entry-level education of all 1 million emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), advanced EMTs, and paramedics in the United States.
- Increased the number of States (from 48 to 49) reporting version 3.0 National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) data to NHTSA's national EMS database. NEMSIS provides near real-time geolocated data on over 1.5 million motor vehicle crash injury events in the United States.
- Funded the 2022 update of the Field Trauma Triage Guidelines used by over 23,000 EMS agencies to determine when motor vehicle crash patients are transported to trauma centers. The Guidelines were presented at the American College of Surgeons' 100th annual Committee on Trauma meeting (March 2022).



# NHTSA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY THE NUMBERS: JANUARY 2021 - PRESENT

## Regulatory

- 5 proposed rules/requests for comment
- 12 final rules

## Enforcement

- 1,093 vehicle safety and equipment recalls affecting 22.8 million vehicles
- 45 criminal investigations into odometer fraud violations
- 18 federal felony fraud convictions
- 5 announced penalties against registered importers

## Investments and Grants

- \$109 million to 911 Grant Program
- \$28.25 million in public education campaigns
- \$910 million in highway safety grant funds

## Data and Information

- Almost 160 million inquiries from State driver licensing agencies
- Almost 34 million batch Inquiries from Coast Guard, FAA, USMC, and States
- 3 new data visualization tools

## Research and Publications

- Nearly 60 behavioral safety research reports
- 37 Fact Sheets and products
- 79 special crash investigation cases
- 24 safety program assessments



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