

Remarks Prepared for
Ronald Medford, Deputy Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Love the Bus
American School Bus Council
Sunderland, MD
February 21, 2012

I'm glad to be here to help celebrate Love the Bus this morning. This is a great opportunity for everyone to give special thanks to our school bus drivers.

It's important that we show our appreciation. School bus drivers across the country work hard every day to get students safely to and from school. They deserve to be recognized for their dedication and driving skill.

I can you tell that highway safety doesn't just happen like magic. It's created by drivers who consistently pay close attention to the road. That helps everyone stay safe.

At my agency, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, we work on many highway safety issues. I'm proud to say that we've developed training materials for school bus drivers, seat belt standards for school buses, and materials to help children keep themselves safe at bus stops.

The big yellow school bus can teach us a lot about safe driving.

One reason the U.S. school bus fleet has such an excellent safety record is that school buses are designed and built with strong sides and roofs to better protect children.

School bus drivers understand safety, too. They know the rules of the road and keep their focus on the task of driving throughout their work day. They are dedicated and specially trained to operate buses safely. That's a big reason why school buses are involved in fewer crashes than passenger cars.

By the way, school buses are also good for the environment. Every bus replaces 36 cars that would be needed to get that many children to school. That saves a lot of fuel and reduces traffic too.

It won't be long before all of you students here today will be old enough to get a driver's license. As you practice your driving skills and gain confidence, I hope you will also remember the safe driving example set by the school bus driver who takes you to Sunderland Elementary and home again.

And when you finally get your license, please stay alert, stay focused, and help make our roads safer for everyone!

Introduction of Anne Ferro

It's now my pleasure to introduce our final speaker. Anne Ferro is Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. She is focused like a laser on eliminating severe crashes and fatalities that involve large trucks and buses. Please welcome Anne Ferro.