



**Southeast Commercial Vehicle Safety Research Summit**  
**Bryant Conference Center**  
**Tuscaloosa, Alabama**  
**August 28-29, 2024**



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

# CMV Crash Reduction

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- Preliminary Crash Estimates
  - 2023 preliminary estimates from NHTSA show a 7% reduction in CMV fatalities
  - FMCSA Safety Progress Report shows 11% reduction but that is still 4,807 deaths per year meaning that on average 13 people a day die in CMV crashes

Fatalities	CY2021	CY2022	CY2023	CY2022 vs CY2023
Large Truck and Buses	6,068	5,640	5,045	Decrease 10.5%
Large Truck	5,824	5,417	4,807	Decrease 11.2%
Buses	283	249	261	Increase 4.8%

# Strategic Activities to Reduce CMV Crashes

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- **Developing Comprehensive Crash Reduction Plans:**  
Strategic, data-driven crash reduction plans that target high-risk areas, focusing on driver behavior and are developed in partnership with other interested parties.
- **Addressing Rear-End Crashes Involving Large Trucks:**  
Enhanced driver training, work zones and improved signage, and advanced braking technologies to reduce rear-end collisions, which are a significant contributor to severe accidents.
- **Distracted Drivers:** Address the issue of distracted driving, and how can education campaigns, stricter enforcement, and innovative in-vehicle technologies promote safe driving behaviors.



# Strategic Activities to Reduce CMV Crashes

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- **Partnerships in Highway Safety:** Effective collaboration between federal, state agencies, industry stakeholders, and local communities is essential to designing and implementing successful highway safety programs.
- **Leveraging Technology and Data for Targeted Interventions:** Using predictive analytics, vehicle telematics, and real-time data to identify patterns, enabling targeted interventions that proactively reduce crash risks.
  - Tech-Celerate Now is a FMCSA program for accelerating the adoption of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) in the commercial motor vehicle (CMV) industry.



# Summary: Southern Service Center 2020 - 2024 - Fatal Crashes

- FMCSA Safety Progress Report shows a 10.2% reduction for states in FMCSA's Southern Service Center.

Summary	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023	CY22 vs CY23
Number of vehicles involved in fatal crashes	1,889	1,755	1,595	Decrease 9.1%
Number of fatal crashes	1,710	1,561	1,413	Decrease 9.4%
Number of fatalities as a result of a crash	1,908	1,730	1,552	Decrease 10.2%

*Fatal Crashes: Includes Large Trucks & Buses*

*FMCSA Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS) data snapshot as of 7/26/2024*



# Leverage Grants to Improve Highway Safety

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## Discretionary Grants

- **BIL provided a 90% increase in discretionary funding**
- **2023 Prioritized Projects**
  - **Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training grant (CMVOST)** recipients increased their capacity to train veterans and their family members, members from underserved and refugee communities, and other Americans to safely operate CMVs, obtain their CDLs, and enter the truck and bus driving profession;
  - **Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI)** grant helped states expedite CDL issuance and renewals, ensure states electronically exchange conviction and disqualification data;
  - **High Priority (HP)** grants helped drivers find parking and avoid work zones, supported e-screening efforts for safe carriers, supported combatting human trafficking, and increased safety efforts in work zones and rural areas.

In FY 2024, FMCSA leveraged an extensive technical assistance plan to reach out to new communities and potential grantees.

- **2024 Prioritized Projects**
  - Continue to prioritize traditionally underserved communities, including rural, refugee, and Tribal nation communities; and
  - Projects supporting DOT and FMCSA priorities.

# High Priority (HP) Grants

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- **Eligibility:** States, local jurisdictions, and other entities conducting CMV safety-related activities or Innovative Technology Deployment (ITD)
- FMCSA awarded 86 grants & more than \$83 million through the HP grant program in FY 2023
- Including \$59 million to 41 State Organizations, \$4.9 million to four local jurisdictions, and \$19 million to 12 additional entities, including 9 universities.
- CMV safety-related activities funded under the HP grant can include:
  - increasing public awareness and education on CMV safety
  - targeting unsafe driving in high-risk crash corridors
  - demonstrating new technologies to improve CMV safety
  - safety data improvement, and other projects that help meet FMCSA's mission of improving CMV safety nationwide

# Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Programs Awardees

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## **Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Awarded Amount: \$1,594,231**

- Project Description: CMV enforcement to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes on Alabama roadways. Throughout the funding lifecycle, details will be coordinated targeting top crash causal factors identified.

## **Auburn University Awarded Amount: \$396,013**

- Project Description: Auburn University Transportation Research Institute is to develop a CMV and non-CMV web-based speed analysis tool using historical data on Alabama roadways to reduce crash fatalities through enforcement and education.

## **The University of Alabama Awarded Amount: \$433,148**

- Project Description: Host the Southern Service Center Safety Summit



# Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Programs Awardees

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## **State of Louisiana Awarded Amount: \$1,000,000**

- Project Description: State of Louisiana is to improve recognition, prevention, reporting, enforcement, and outreach/public education of human trafficking in CMVs.

## **North Dakota State University Awarded Amount: \$600,368**

- Project Description: NDSU is to improve CMV safety through the documenting and sharing best practices of university partnerships with agencies to improve commercial motor vehicle safety.
- NDSU will focus in the areas of technologies and tools to promote safe driving behaviors and to identify high-risk corridors and providing resources through the Commercial Vehicle Safety Center at NDSU- Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute.

## **Board of Regents, Univ of Nebraska, Univ of Nebraska-Lincoln Awarded Amount: \$1,126,672**

- Project Description: Board of Regents, University of Nebraska, Lincoln is to develop and evaluate a distributed multi-sensor fusion framework for driver behavior estimation. Development of a predictive crash/near-crash prediction model depends on the exact replication of the real world in a digital replica, which will be addressed in this study.

# National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS)

NRSS outlines the Department's comprehensive approach to significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's highways, roads, and streets.

Implementation of the NRSS is arranged around five complementary objectives corresponding to the Safe System Approach.

**Safer People:** Encourage safe, responsible driving and behavior by people who use our roads and create conditions that prioritize their ability to reach their destination unharmed.



# “Safer Drivers”

## Large Truck Driver Fatalities, 2018 – 2022

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Year	Number of Fatal Crashes	Number of Total Fatalities	Number of Driver Fatalities	Number Not Wearing Seatbelt	% of Driver Fatalities Not Wearing Seatbelt
2018	4,461	5,006	740	465	<b>63%</b>
2019	4,502	5,032	768	456	<b>59%</b>
2020	4,423	4,945	718	528	<b>74%</b>
2021	5,178	5,821	859	546	<b>64%</b>
2022	5,279	5,936	914	635	<b>69%</b>

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)

For more safety information on the Seat Belts and to access shareable resources including social media assets and video PSAs, please visit [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/seatbelts](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/seatbelts).

# CMV Safe Speed Campaign

- Speeding is a major contributor to crashes, injuries, and fatalities on our nation's roadways



Driver-Related Factors, 2022	Percent
Speeding of Any Kind	6.4%
Careless Driving, Inattentive Operation, Improper Driving, Driving Without Due Care	5.7%
Distraction/inattention (Cell Phone, Lost in Thought, Eating, etc.)	4.8%
Impairment (Fatigue, Alcohol, Illness, etc.)	4.8%
Failure to Yield Right of Way	4.8%
Vision Obscured (by Weather, Roadway Design, Vehicles, etc.)	3.6%
Improper Lane Usage	2.8%
Failure to Obey Actual Traffic Signs, Traffic Control Devices or Traffic Officers, Failure to Observe Safety Zone Traffic Laws	2.8%
Following Improperly	1.9%
Overcorrecting	1.8%
<b>No Driver-Related Factors Recorded</b>	<b>66.8%</b>

# \$80 Million in Grants to Improve Highway Safety, Including Better Access to Truck Parking

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**September 2023**

The High Priority grants include a 65% increase in funding for truck parking projects over last year and enhance critical efforts to support truck drivers and improve safety such as:

- Expand access to truck parking by helping truck drivers locate available rest area truck parking spaces in real time via dynamic message signs along highways in Kentucky, Delaware, and Indiana.
- Research to support automated, location-based driver alerts via electronic logging devices that inform drivers of upcoming work zones --- improving safety for both the drivers and the workers.
- Outreach and education to combat human trafficking, an effort in which truck drivers can play a key role given their time and attention on the road.

# Level VIII Inspection

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What is a Level VIII Inspection?

- An inspection conducted electronically, while vehicle is in motion, without direct interaction with an enforcement officer.

What are the potential benefits?



## SAFETY

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- More data on more carriers
- Reduce traffic congestion at inspection points



## EFFICIENCY

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- Save time for carriers and drivers



## CLIMATE

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- More inspections with fewer climate impacts



# Level VIII Inspection

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- Each phase of the project will produce analysis to determine whether to continue the test and if so, shape the subsequent phase.
- Analysis will include the potential safety, efficiency, and climate impacts of using electronic inspections.

## COLLABORATIVE

- Leverage expertise and connections
- Engage key stakeholders



**FMCSA**



**CVSA**



**Tech  
Providers**



**State  
Partners**



**Motor  
Carriers**

*Contractor: U.S. DOT Volpe Center*

# Thank You

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