



Prepared Statement of Louis V. Lombardo

Retired NHTSA Research Scientist

Founder and Publisher of Care for Crash Victims Reports

Comments on Docket NHTSA-2014-0014

NHTSA Strategic Plan

At NHTSA Listening Session

Feb. 24, 2014

Mr. Friedman, Mr. Lieu, NHTSA officials, my name is Louis Lombardo and I am pleased to be able to provide testimony on the NHTSA Strategic Plans (although I have not yet seen a draft).

As a citizen, I would like to recommend that NHTSA keep in mind the biblical guidance that “Where there is no vision, the people perish”.

Please consider Executive actions to achieve Vision Zero crash deaths nationally by the year 2024 for the nation – as Mayor de Blasio has nobly and morally done for NYC.

The NY Times reports “*Only two weeks into his administration, Mr. de Blasio set a sweeping goal on Wednesday: to bring the number of New Yorkers killed in traffic “literally” to zero, saying it would be “a central focus” of his administration.*”

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/16/nyregion/de-blasio-announces-steps-to-reduce-traffic-deaths.html>

Contrast this with the facts that in the 5 years under President Obama, Americans suffered many thousands more deaths due to crash injuries – more than 160,000 people - than the number of Americans who died in the Afghanistan, Iraq, Viet Nam, and Korean wars combined. Naturally citizens might think that the White House would have auto safety on its list of important issues. But if citizens go to www.WhiteHouse.gov issues they will be disappointed to find 33 issues listed – but not auto safety. Why?

National Problem -- Nationally the total number of crash deaths in the U.S.A. since 1900 now exceeds 3,624,000 people. The number injured in crashes is estimated to have exceeded 500,000,000. Thus, crashes in the U.S. have resulted in 5 times the number of Americans killed and 300 times the number wounded in all wars since 1776. See <http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/clock.php>

Currently, each day, about 100 Americans die of crash injuries, 400 suffer serious

injuries, and losses increase by about \$1 Billion. NHTSA still does not publish the number of specific serious injuries such as brain, spinal cord, burns, amputations, disfigurements or the long-term consequences of these tragic human losses.

In 2011, more than half (56%) of the 32,376 fatal crash victims were not taken to any facility for emergency medical treatment – 17,972 people died of crash injuries without receiving any emergency hospital medical care. See

<http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/assets/2012-00872-FATALITIES.PDF>

In 2013, the National Academy of Sciences reported that the U.S. ranks last in mortality from transportation injuries. *“In 2009, the United States had the highest death rate from transportation related accidents among the 17 peer countries...”*

See Shorter Lives, Poorer Health, p. 32, available at http://nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13497

Since Mr. Friedman took office on May 15, 2013 as NHTSA Deputy Administrator, the number of days elapsed = 285 days. That amounts to an estimated 28,500 people who died of crash injuries in the U.S.A. And about 114,000 people who suffered serious injuries in crashes. Losses amount to about \$285 Billion.

Looking ahead from today, if NHTSA stays on the same course in the 1,061 days remaining, President Obama and Mr. Friedman may see another 106,000 people die of their crash injuries on their watch. And we all may see another 424,000 people suffer serious crash injuries and losses of another \$ Trillion.

Local Problem – Crash Deaths in our cities are a major problem. NYC had the highest number of crash deaths -- 271 people killed -- of any city in the U.S. in 2011. All NHTSA data by cities from 2000 – 2012 are under my web site tab “Crash Death Mapping Tools” http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/assets/CITY_FATRATE_A.PDF

NHTSA Strategic Plan Proposals –

I recommend that NHTSA set three important goals for two periods – Long term (10 years by 2024) and Short term (3 years by end of 2016 – the end of Obama Administration).

Goal 1 – Set a Vision Zero goal for crash deaths and serious injuries by the year 2024 for the Nation

Long Term: Zero crash deaths and zero serious injuries by 2024.

Short Term: 10 % reduction, each year, in crash deaths and serious injuries through 2016.

Goal 2 – Bring Them Home Alive! Timely & Optimal Treatment Goal for Serious Crash Injuries in a Decade – One Hour Med Evac by Appropriate Rescue and Transport Teams to Definitive Care.

Long Term: Set Golden Hour goal for all serious crash victims in a decade.

Short Term: Set Golden Hour goal for all serious crash victims in urban areas in three years.

Goal 2 Steps --

- * Restore “Rollover and Extrication” to National Triage Guidelines by end of 2014.
- * Propose and promulgate National URGENCY Algorithm for use by the end of 2014.
- * Propose Automatic Crash Notification (ACN) Standards by the end of 2014.

Note: Where there is no urgency, the people perish.

Goal 3 – Challenge, engage, employ, and unleash the power of the people to meet these Short and Long Term goals

According to the NHTSA bio on Mr. Friedman: *“Prior to joining UCS in 2001, Mr. Friedman worked for the University of California, Davis, in the Fuel Cell Vehicle Modeling Program and also volunteered on the UC Davis FutureCar team that built a plug-in hybrid electric family car that doubled its fuel economy.”*

Provide such leadership in a race for a much more important goal – saving lives now!

- Imagine a challenge from citizens to Mayors de Blasio, LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, and former Mayor Anthony Foxx to create such a race to stop crash deaths.
- Imagine the competition of the two cities NY and LA with the highest annual number of crash fatalities to achieve Vision Zero crash fatalities first.
- Imagine the LA Times challenging the NY Times on coverage of this race.
- Imagine bicoastal competitions engaging Boston, Silicon Valley and Silicon Alley.
- Imagine citizens demanding that Mayors challenge the students in Universities to get involved to discover and help apply safety countermeasures.
- Imagine a challenge to students with a worthy goal. Unleash the energy and ability of students in Schools of Law, Medicine, Engineering, Public Health and Safety, Journalism, Public Administration and Management – each year for the next decade – until we achieve Vision Zero Crash Deaths in America.
- Challenge students to research crashes, injuries, treatments, and outcomes and offer solutions.

See <http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/assets/monthly-report-jan2014.pdf>

Americans learned the importance of such goals with the example set by President Kennedy. We recently passed the 50th Anniversary of President Kennedy’s speech in which he said:

“I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.”

“I believe we possess all the resources and talents necessary. But the facts of the matter are that we have never made the national decisions or marshaled the national resources required for such leadership. We have never specified long-range goals on an urgent time schedule, or managed our resources and our time so as to insure their fulfillment...”

Applying that “can do” spirit today, we can abolish preventable crash deaths and serious injuries in a decade. We, the people, need such leadership to build safer vehicles, safer roads, and a more effective emergency medical care infrastructure capable of returning motorists home alive.

Imagine a Presidential goal that the nation will achieve Golden Hour medevac for serious crashes of 1 hour or less by the year 2024 in America. President Obama’s Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has already set and met that goal in Afghanistan. In an interview on the PBS News Hour Americans heard:

"JIM LEHRER: Mr. Secretary, much has been written and said about your last four and a half years as secretary of defense. And a lot of people have been assessing your performance. What do you think of the way you've performed as secretary of state the last - secretary of defense the last four and half years?"

ROBERT GATES: "I will say that I think that the thing I'm proudest of is what I've been able to do for our troops, giving them these heavily armored vehicles, these Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles; giving them one-hour medevac or less in Afghanistan... trying to do whatever was necessary to help them accomplish their mission and come home safely." (Emphasis added)" Source:

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/politics/jan-june11/gates_06-23.html

We can do this in America using 21st Century technologies and capabilities. NHTSA published a paper in 2005 on what we can do. See

<http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/urgency.php>

The White House has a new program that can be relevant called Promise Zones. See

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/01/08/fact-sheet-president-obama-s-promise-zones-initiative>

And the White House also has a program that also may be engaged. See

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/04/25/supporting-local-communities-building-capacity-and-cutting-red-tape>

So every day Americans give NHTSA and the White House many important reasons to do more now to save lives and livelihoods -- about 500 deaths and serious injuries from crashes every day.

Hopefully, citizens can spur effective plans, policies, and programs from the White House and NHTSA.

Table 124
Persons Killed, Population, and Fatality Rates by City

City	State	Fatalities			Population	Total Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population
		Total Killed	Pedestrians Killed			
			Number	Percent of Total Killed		
New York	NY	271	138	50.9	8,244,910	3.29
Los Angeles	CA	209	88	42.1	3,819,702	5.47
Chicago	IL	119	36	30.3	2,707,120	4.40
Houston	TX	196	49	25.0	2,145,146	9.14
Philadelphia	PA	87	30	34.5	1,536,471	5.66
Phoenix	AZ	124	34	27.4	1,469,471	8.44
San Antonio	TX	121	32	26.4	1,359,758	8.90
San Diego	CA	65	21	32.3	1,326,179	4.90
Dallas	TX	107	26	24.3	1,223,229	8.75
San Jose	CA	36	18	50.0	967,487	3.72
Jacksonville	FL	81	17	21.0	827,908	9.78
Indianapolis	IN	84	22	26.2	827,609	10.15
Austin	TX	54	22	40.7	820,611	6.58
San Francisco	CA	30	16	53.3	812,826	3.69
Columbus	OH	57	17	29.8	797,434	7.15
Fort Worth	TX	65	16	24.6	758,738	8.57
Charlotte	NC	59	22	37.3	751,087	7.86
Detroit	MI	78	25	32.1	706,585	11.04
El Paso	TX	71	15	21.1	665,568	10.67
Memphis	TN	74	17	23.0	652,050	11.35
Boston	MA	13	2	15.4	625,087	2.08
Seattle	WA	20	2	10.0	620,778	3.22
Denver	CO	33	11	33.3	619,968	5.32
Baltimore	MD	25	9	36.0	619,493	4.04
Washington	DC	27	8	29.6	617,996	4.37
Nashville-Davidson	TN	66	11	16.7	609,644	10.83
Louisville-Jefferson Co.	KY	59	17	28.8	602,011	9.80
Milwaukee	WI	37	13	35.1	597,867	6.19
Portland	OR	34	8	23.5	593,820	5.73
Oklahoma City	OK	72	6	8.3	591,967	12.16
Las Vegas	NV	24	8	33.3	589,317	4.07
Albuquerque	NM	43	10	23.3	552,804	7.78
Tucson	AZ	63	21	33.3	525,796	11.98
Fresno	CA	34	14	41.2	501,362	6.78
Sacramento	CA	40	15	37.5	472,178	8.47
Long Beach	CA	27	4	14.8	465,576	5.80
Kansas City	MO	66	17	25.8	463,202	14.25
Mesa	AZ	40	5	12.5	446,518	8.96
Virginia Beach	VA	24	3	12.5	442,707	5.42
Atlanta	GA	39	11	28.2	432,427	9.02

Source: Population—Bureau of the Census.