



Transportation Safety Policy Statement

Approved September 25, 2024

The transportation construction industry recognizes its role in a broader public responsibility to safeguard and protect all users of America's vast transportation network. The American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) maintains a core commitment to do its part by building and maintaining that network in a safe and responsible manner. Through innovation, dedication and partnering, we envision a future where crashes, injuries and fatalities are greatly diminished, with a goal of zero deaths.

ARTBA sees its contribution to transportation safety focused specifically on the design, construction, maintenance, repair, and modification of the system, but recognizes that our efforts are part of- and must be aligned with a comprehensive approach that includes operations, maintenance, education, and emergency response. Likewise, our approach to safety recognizes that users of the system include workers who labor to ensure it operates safely and efficiently. Therefore, ARTBA's safety advocacy, communications, and education on behalf of industry workers promote aspects that are operational, occupational, physical, and mental.

ARTBA understands that transportation and specifically construction safety entails multiple contexts and perspectives necessitating a broad multidisciplinary approach to be effective. From region to region, and project to project, transportation facilities sustain multiple modes of users that should be considered when implementing safety plans. These include, where applicable, temporary traffic control, pedestrian and impaired user access, transit system accommodation, and consideration for specialized or non-motorized vehicles when the system is under construction, renovation, and maintenance.

It is critical to promote awareness of safety trends to effectively implement safe construction zones for all who work or pass through them. Our outreach has a strong emphasis on the occupational safety and health of workers exposed to traffic and construction hazards. This multidisciplinary effort requires advocacy in all areas and levels of government, including legislative, regulatory, enforcement, and judicial activities.

This Transportation Safety Policy affirms our greatest opportunities for success are linked to partnerships with system owners, operators, responders, information and technology providers, and other industry organizations and stakeholders with aligned objectives. We actively seek opportunities to work with others to achieve our mutual safety and health objectives.

Objectives and Policies

1. Work with the U.S. Congress, the Administration, other state, and local regulatory and legislative bodies to advance legislation, regulations, policies, and programs aimed at protecting all transportation system users, including during construction, repair, and maintenance operations. This includes:
 - a. Roadway Workers
 - b. Pedestrians
 - c. Motorists
 - d. Passengers
 - e. Non-motorized vehicles

2. Ensure that federal, state, and local transportation safety regulations and policies explicitly recognize workers as vulnerable road users and include efforts to protect their well-being.
3. Collaborate with other stakeholders including traffic safety advocacy groups, construction groups, motorist, and cyclist associations, etc., to change user culture to prioritize safe use of the system over speed and other unsafe behaviors. Promote an ideology that safe arrival at a desired destination is more important than a quick or timely arrival.
4. Collaborate with traffic safety stakeholders to create multiple forms of communication and feedback to system users to improve safety.
5. Collaborate with automakers, device manufacturers and other technology companies to ensure safety is a priority for connected and automated vehicles, especially as they relate to work zones.
6. Recognize that the lives and well-being of all system users are equally important. This means that the use of protective devices such as speed safety cameras are equally important in school zones, pedestrian zones, and work zones.
7. Promote equalization of safety expectations nationally to help ensure that safe (and unsafe) behaviors are recognized and uniformly addressed.
8. Support the development of new and innovative products that promote user and worker safety. Advocate for the deployment of these new technologies and products.
9. Reduce unnecessary impediments to the creation and implementation of new and innovative technologies.
10. Seek opportunities to fund research, training, education, outreach, and support for safe construction and operation of our transportation network, reaffirming ARTBA's fundamental focus on industry outreach.
11. Promote products and technologies that improve safety and mobility for users and workers.
12. Develop and share safety education, communications, and training to help ensure system builders, operators, and maintenance personnel understand how to protect users and workers when improving and maintaining the system.
13. Support continued funding for the Highway Safety Improvement Program and advocate for its use on infrastructure and collaborative traffic safety strategies, and worker protection.
14. Advocate for federal and state funding for safety and health communications and training.
15. Advocate for the use and continual improvement of proven road and transportation safety technologies and products including:
 - a. Physical barriers between transportation and construction operations (including full system closure).
 - b. Improved visibility for signage, pavement markings, temporary traffic control devices, etc., especially under low light and inclement weather conditions.
 - c. Speed safety cameras/automated speed enforcement in roadway work zones.
16. Promote testing and approval processes across the nation to reduce the cost of introducing, testing, and obtaining approval for new safety products on the system, including working with FHWA to reduce the time to review submissions of product crash reports and issue eligibility letters.