



August 24, 2006

The Honorable Maria Cino
Acting Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Secretary Cino:

I am writing today to express my deep concern in regards to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) recent announcement highlighting the increase in highway fatalities for non-occupants of motor vehicles in 2005.

Although not addressed in NHTSA's press release, I think it is extremely important to note that for the second year in a row we have seen an increase in bicycle fatalities and injuries. According to the 2005 annual assessment, fatalities were up by 5.8%, and have jumped over 20% since 2003. Clearly, this is an alarming trend and would suggest that more must be done to ensure safe accommodation of cyclists along the nation's transportation system.

I certainly appreciate the fact that, over the next three years, the Department is planning to assist states in developing pedestrian safety programs. However, I strongly urge the Department to include bicycle safety in the process as well. Attention should be focused on the fact that street designs and vehicle improvements have made it far too easy for drivers to speed and there are many more distractions to driving than ever before. Highway users who are not in cars are increasingly paying the price.

Madame Secretary, I also ask for your leadership in providing additional funding to establish a program to track and account for increases in bicycle and pedestrian usage on our nation's streets. The Department has conspicuously failed to collect this data for decades, and I am sure that you would agree that now more than ever we need to know how many people are riding and walking, and how far they are traveling by foot and bike.

Thank you in advance for your leadership in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Clarke".

Andy Clarke
Executive Director