Comment from laura brown

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Jun 23, 2022

Dear NHTSA,

My grandmother died because an SUV hit her as she was crossing the road at a crosswalk. I'm not interested in doling out blame, and it brought me no joy to see the driver put in jail and separated from her family. There is blame - and that blame falls on the officials who failed to support any regulations that could've saved her life.

I live in Broomfield, Colorado, and my neighborhood is full of SUVs with grilles as tall as my head. People act as if when I go biking, walking, or ride the bus with my daughter, it would be squarely my fault if we were hit by a driver who couldn't even see us in front of them.

Pedestrian safety testing for vehicles is already mandatory in most developed nations, and it saves lives. Pedestrian and cyclist crash tests in safety ratings should be required. Pedestrian automatic emergency braking systems should not only be mandatory, but extremely rigorous performance standards should also be required. This goes for ADAS as well. This technology has the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives in the US. Any car without it should not be allowed on the road.

Implementing a transportation system that moves people safety, equitably and efficiently is your responsibility. As a person who walks and bikes for transportation, it makes me sad I have to plead with transportation agencies that the lives of people on foot or bike are more important than motorists' convenience and the safety of people on foot or bikes is more important than motorists' property. I understand that regulatory capture is real and the oil and auto industry have immense power. But I also believe this thoughtful, capable and progressive administration is up to the task of objectively assessing and regulating American vehicles and setting engineering standards for both cars and roads which will make our transportation system safe for everyone.

Thank you for your time,
Laura Brown