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November 29, 2022

Mr. Nanda Narayanan Srinivasan
Associate Administrator, Research and Program Development
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket No. NHTSA-2022-0080

Dear Mr. Srinivasan:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is responding to a request for comment (RFC) by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on October 25, 2022, regarding a new information collection on the influence of drivers' internal reasoning on speeding.

In 2021, more than 163,000 crashes on Texas roads involved speed, resulting in 6,493 serious injuries and 1,532 fatalities. To combat this, TxDOT continually raises safety awareness through outreach like our "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign which, among other things, urges motorists to drive at safe speeds and match speeds to road conditions, such as when traveling in adverse weather or through a work zone. In 2022, TxDOT also held events to highlight this important issue: the first was a collaboration held at the NASCAR All-Star Race with representatives from TxDOT, the Texas Motor Speedway and the Texas Department of Public Safety. The second event was held in our Austin District Office, where we were joined by local and state law enforcement officials and drivers from our Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) patrol service program.

In that light, TxDOT agrees with the need to study and research attitudes and reasoning related to speeding. The *Federal Register* notice does not specify if the study will focus on city streets or highways or both; we encourage NHTSA to incorporate both as part of their research. NHTSA's research will survey 1,500 licensed drivers in Washington state. TxDOT believes the scope of the survey should be expanded to additional states, particularly as Washington state is not listed as one of the states with the highest number of speeding-related traffic fatalities, according to NHTSA's most recent data.¹

¹ <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813320>.

TxDOT appreciates the opportunity to respond to this RFC. If you have any questions, please call me at (512) 305-9515 or you or your staff may contact Melanie Alvord, Director, Federal Affairs, at (512) 944-5135 or via email at Melanie.Alvord@txdot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Williams".

Marc D. Williams, P.E.
Executive Director

cc: Michael Chacon, Director, Traffic Safety Division