



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

February 5, 2026

Dear Governor:

Thank you for your response to my July 1, 2025 letter asking that you join with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to support our national initiative, Safe Roads for Everyone through Reliable Operations and Distraction-Reducing Strategies (SAFE ROADS), to help improve safety and mobility, eliminate distractions, and keep people and goods moving throughout the United States. SAFE ROADS focuses on non-freeway arterials (including safety and operation at intersections and along segments), consistent and recognizable traffic control devices (including crosswalk and intersection markings), and orderly use of the right-of-way that is kept free from distractions.

We received responses from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The 52 submissions included almost 4,300 specific arterial segments and intersections identified for improvement, with both urban and rural areas represented. All submissions addressed safety concerns explicitly, focusing on reducing fatalities and serious injuries, with most incorporating projects from the States' Highway Safety Improvement Program utilizing the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Proven Safety Countermeasures.

More than half the submittals identified proposed included operational improvements including, but not limited to, congestion and bottleneck management, traffic signal operation and modernization, and lane additions and roadway widening. Some submittals explicitly noted addressing distractions within the right-of-way including reducing sign clutter, vegetation control and debris removal, and ensuring compliance with traffic control device standards. In addition, a few States recently provided guidance to jurisdictions on "distractions," noting Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways compliance and citing the SAFE ROADS Initiative.

I have asked FHWA Administrator Sean McMaster to communicate additional information on what we learned from these 52 submissions, as well as what next steps are planned for this initiative through a separate correspondence to your State DOT Chief Executive. I look forward to hearing more from you and Administrator McMaster on your success stories and best practices, and I also appreciate hearing about opportunities to celebrate or visit these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S.P. Duffy", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Sean P. Duffy

cc:

State DOT Chief Executives
FHWA Division Administrators
FHWA Directors of Field Services