

major strides in reducing traffic fatalities.

Remaining barriers to safety will be more resistant to programmatic influences now that the easy gains have already been accomplished. Moreover, crash fatalities have been edging higher since dropping to slightly under 40,000 in 1992, indicating that significant effort will be needed just to preserve the gains that already have been made. Up-to-date information is essential to plot the direction of future activity that will achieve reductions in crash injuries and fatalities in the coming years.

In order to collect the critical information needed by NHTSA to develop and implement effective countermeasures that meet the Agency's mandate to improve highway traffic safety, NHTSA conducted its first Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey in 1994. The survey included questions related to seat belts, child safety seats, air bags, bicyclist safety, motorcyclist safety, and Emergency Medical Services. It also contained small segments on alcohol use and on speeding. The survey was repeated in 1996, with the survey instrument updated to incorporate emergent issues and items of increased interest.

The proposed survey is the third Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey. The survey would collect data on topics included in the preceding surveys and would monitor changes over time in the use of occupant protection devices and in attitudes related to vehicle occupant safety. It is important that NHTSA monitor these changes so that the Agency can determine the effects of its efforts to promote the use of safety devices and to identify areas where its efforts should be targeted and where new strategies may be needed. As in 1996, NHTSA proposes to make a small number of revisions to the survey instrument to address new information needs.

If approved, the proposed survey would assist NHTSA in addressing the problem of motor vehicle occupant safety and in formulating programs and recommendations to Congress. The results of the proposed survey would be used to: (a) identify areas to target current programs and activities to achieve the greatest benefit; (b) develop new programs and initiatives aimed at increasing the use of occupant safety devices by the general public; and (c) provide informational support to States and localities in their traffic safety efforts. The findings would also be used directly by State and local highway safety and law enforcement agencies in the development and implementation of effective countermeasures to prevent

injuries and fatalities to vehicle occupants.

Description of the Likely Respondents (Including Estimated Number, and Proposed Frequency of Response to the Collection of Information)—Under this proposed effort, a telephone interview averaging approximately 20 minutes in length would be administered to each of 8,000 randomly selected members of the general public age 16 and older in telephone households. The respondent sample would be selected from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Interviews would be conducted with persons at residential phone numbers selected through random digit dialing. Businesses are ineligible for the sample and would not be interviewed. No more than one respondent would be selected per household. Each member of the sample would complete one interview.

Estimate of the Total Annual Reporting and Record Keeping Burden Resulting from the Collection of Information—NHTSA estimates that each respondent in the sample would require an average of 20 minutes to complete the telephone interview. Thus, the number of estimated reporting burden hours a year on the general public (8,000 respondents multiplied by 1 interview multiplied by 20 minutes) would be 2667 for the proposed survey. The respondents would not incur any reporting cost from the information collection. The respondents also would not incur any record keeping burden or record keeping cost from the information collection.

James Nichols,

Acting Associate Administrator for Traffic Safety Programs.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Research and Development Programs Meeting Agenda

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice provides the agenda for a public meeting at which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will describe and discuss specific research and development projects.

DATES AND TIMES: As previously announced, NHTSA will hold a public meeting devoted primarily to presentations of specific research and

development projects on March 17, 1998, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at approximately 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Clarion Inn, Detroit Metro Airport, 9191 Wickham Road, Romulus, Michigan.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice provides the agenda for the twentieth in a series of public meetings to provide detailed information about NHTSA's research and development programs. This meeting will be held on March 17, 1998. The meeting was announced on February 20, 1998 (63 FR 8734). For additional information about the meeting, consult that announcement.

Starting at 1:30 p.m. and concluding by 5:00 p.m., NHTSA's Office of Research and Development will discuss the following topics:

Research and Development Overview;
Test Procedures to Measure Rollover Propensity; Automated Collision Notification System—Update on Testing; Pedestrian Research; and 30 MPH Unbelted Barrier Tests with Depowered Air Bags.

NHTSA has based its decisions about the agenda, in part, on the suggestions it received in response to the announcement published February 20, 1998.

As announced on February 20, 1998, in the time remaining at the conclusion of the presentations, NHTSA will provide answers to questions on its research and development programs, where those questions have been submitted in writing to Raymond P. Owings, Ph.D., Associate Administrator for Research and Development, NRD-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590. Fax number: 202-366-5930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rita I. Gibbons, Staff Assistant, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-4862. Fax number: 202-366-5930.

Issued: March 11, 1998.

Raymond P. Owings,

Associate Administrator for Research and Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 6, 1998.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public