

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

**Overview:** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducts critical behavioral and vehicle programs, and provides grants to the States for the administration of highway traffic safety programs. In 2001, traffic crashes were the leading cause of death for persons ages 2 and 4 through 33. In 2002, motor vehicle crashes claimed nearly 43,000 lives and accounted for over 95 percent of transportation-related deaths. The economic cost of motor vehicle crashes is estimated to be more than \$230 billion annually. Emerging demographic trends, such as a continuing increase in the number of drivers and a significant growth in both elderly and teenage drivers, pose increased traffic safety challenges that must be addressed. The President's FY 2005 budget request includes \$689 million for NHTSA to carry out its mission. The request reflects an increase of \$18 million above the FY 2004 enacted level, plus the transfer of the safety belt use and impaired-driving law incentive programs from the Federal Highway Administration to NHTSA in FY 2005.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION BUDGET  
(Dollars In Millions)

	2003 Actual	2004 Enacted	2005 1/ Request
Operations & Research	136	[150] 2/	139
Operations & Research (Highway Trust Fund)	74	75	94
Highway Traffic Safety Grants	<u>224</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>456</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>689</b>

1/ Includes \$222 million of TEA-21 resources for the Sections 157 and 163 grant programs formerly appropriated to the Federal Highway Administration. NHTSA has always administered these funds; therefore, the budget again proposes that the funding be appropriated directly to NHTSA.

2/ The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, provides \$150 million for vehicle safety activities, formerly funded in the Operations and Research general fund account, under the Federal-Aid Highways account.





**FY 2005 Budget**

**Operations and Research:** The FY 2005 budget request includes \$233 million for Operations and Research activities to reduce highway fatalities, prevent injuries, and significantly reduce their associated economic toll. The request includes:

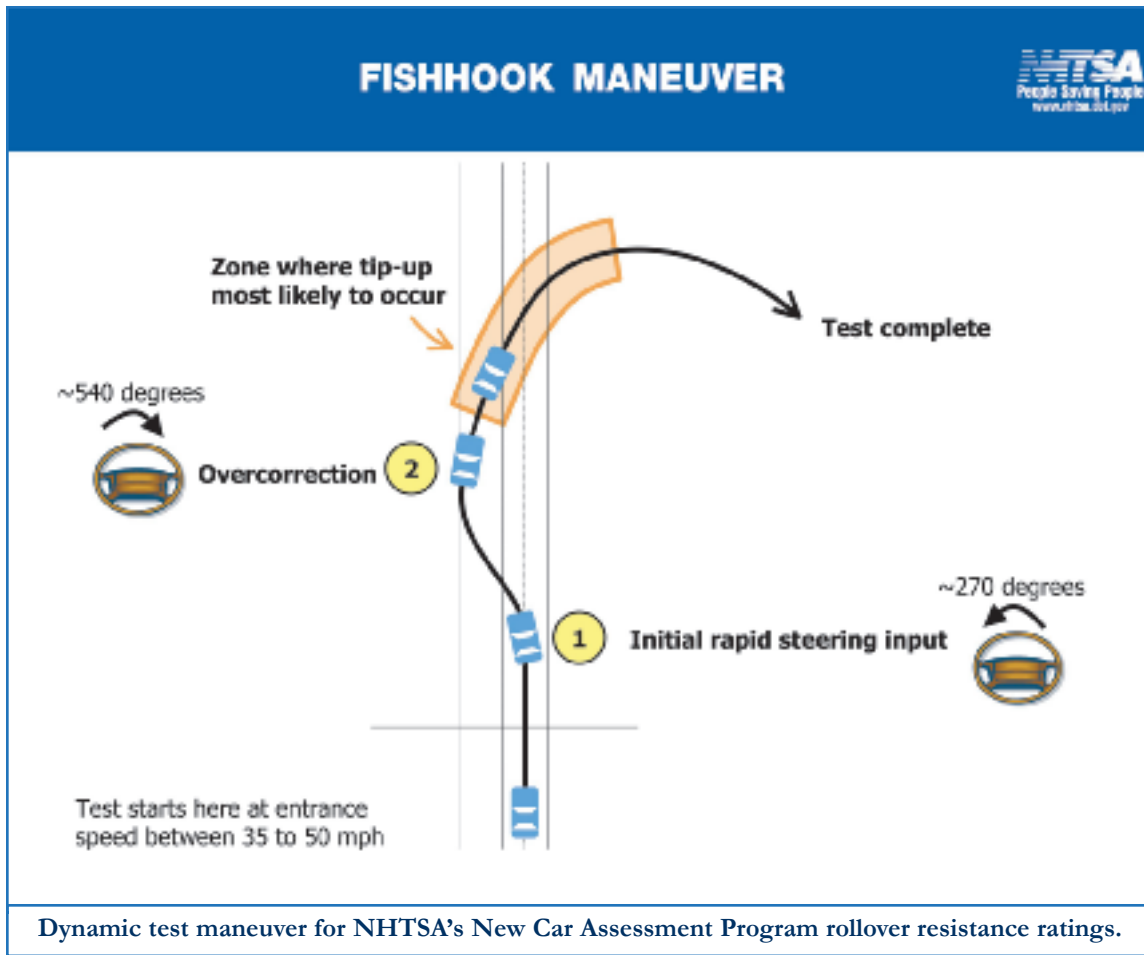
- **Research and Analysis** - \$94.4 million is dedicated to reducing highway fatalities and injuries by providing leadership in crash causation and crash prevention research. This includes crashworthiness research for occupant protection and biomechanics; driver distraction testing; crash causation research; and national crash data systems. A new \$5 million crash avoidance initiative will analyze real-world data and assess methods to test new motor vehicle technologies and improve driver performance. A new \$1 million initiative is also included to develop an innovative crash data system to provide real-time fatality data.



- Highway Safety Programs - \$56.3 million is dedicated to reducing highway fatalities and injuries by funding programs committed to changing driver behavior, a critical factor in reducing the number of highway fatalities and injuries. NHTSA will develop and disseminate programs that address impaired driving deterrence, increased safety belt usage, and correct placement of child safety restraints. Funds will provide for emergency medical system development and education, and strategies for strengthening motorcycle safety, pedestrian, bicycle, and pupil transportation safety, as well as occupant protection usage surveys.



- Enforcement - \$35.5 million is dedicated to reducing highway fatalities and injuries by removing unsafe vehicles from the roadways. Activities include vehicle testing to ensure compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, investigating alleged safety-related defects, and monitoring safety recalls.
- Rulemaking - \$25.9 million is dedicated to reducing highway fatalities and injuries by providing crash avoidance and crashworthiness testing; initiatives to evaluate child safety seats; initiatives to reduce occupant ejection in rollover crashes; and studies to improve seating systems and headlight glare reduction. Through the New Car Assessment Program, consumers will be provided with information on frontal and side impact protection, and rollover resistance of light vehicles.



**Highway Traffic Safety Grants:** NHTSA's highway traffic safety grant program will help reduce highway fatalities and injuries through new innovative grant programs. The FY 2005 budget request of \$456 million includes \$396 million to support a full range of highway safety programs in every State, territory, and Indian nation, including an impaired driving initiative in which grants are awarded strategically to States where the greatest gains in reducing alcohol-related fatalities can be made. Funds are also provided for safety belt use performance grants and primary safety belt law incentive grants. Of the \$396 million, \$20 million will be set aside to fund national paid advertising in support of high visibility safety belt use and impaired driving mobilizations. Additional programs include \$50 million for State Traffic Safety Information Systems Improvement programs to support improvements in highway safety data systems and \$10 million for a new Emergency Medical Services Initiative to assist States in adopting comprehensive wireless emergency and response systems.