

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. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people in the United States ages 3 through 33. In 2003, motor vehicle crashes claimed 42,643 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 older and teenage drivers, pose increased traffic safety challenges that must be addressed. The FY 2006 budget request includes \$696.4 million for NHTSA to carry out its mission. The request reflects an increase of \$23 million above the enacted FY 2005 budget, plus the transfer of the safety belt use and impaired-driving law incentive programs from FHWA to NHTSA in FY 2006.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

(Dollars In Millions)

	2004 <u>Actual</u>	2005 ^{1/} <u>Proposal</u>	2006 ^{2/} <u>Request</u>
Operations & Research ^{3/}	[150]	--	--
Operations & Research (Highway Trust Fund) ^{4/}	73	228	231
Highway Traffic Safety Grants	224	223	465
TOTAL	297	452	696

^{1/} FY 2005 proposal reflects SAFETEA policy funding levels for FY 2004 - 2009 included in the FY 2006 President's Budget.

^{2/} In FY 2004 and FY 2005, \$222 million of TEA-21 resources for Sections 157 and 163 grant programs were appropriated to the Federal Highway Administration. NHTSA has always administered these funds; therefore, the FY 2006 budget proposes that the funding be appropriated directly to NHTSA.

^{3/} FY 2004 enacted level provided \$150 million for vehicle safety activities under the Federal-aid Highway account.

^{4/} FY 2005 level includes \$156 million for vehicle safety activities under the Federal-aid Highway account. Funds will be transferred from FHWA to NHTSA.

FY 2006 Budget

Operations and Research: The FY 2006 budget request includes \$231.4 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 - The \$94 million request includes crashworthiness research for occupant protection and biomechanics; driver distraction testing; crash causation research; and national crash data systems.
- ❖ Highway Safety Programs - \$74 million is requested for programs committed to changing driver behavior, a critical factor in reducing the number of highway fatalities and injuries. NHTSA will continue to develop and disseminate programs that address impaired driving deterrence,

increased safety belt usage, and correct placement of child safety restraints. Funds will also be used to strengthen motorcycle safety, pedestrian, bicycle, and pupil transportation safety programs by developing additional countermeasures. In addition, NHTSA will serve as the lead Federal Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency in coordinating and facilitating EMS system development and effecting system improvements.



- ❖ **Enforcement** - The \$35 million request includes vehicle testing to ensure compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, investigating alleged safety-related defects, and monitoring safety recalls.
- ❖ **Rulemaking** - \$26 million is requested for crash avoidance and crashworthiness testing; evaluating child safety seats; and reducing occupant ejection in rollover crashes; initiatives to increase motor vehicle compatibility; 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. NHTSA will continue its analytical work and technology assessments to determine future fuel economy standards and possible reforms to the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) program.

Highway Traffic Safety Grants: NHTSA's highway traffic safety grant program will help reduce highway fatalities and injuries through innovative grant programs. The FY 2006 budget request of \$465 million includes \$405 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 \$405 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.

