

Truck & Bus Safety Forum

Subject Matter Experts

Rob Abbott, American Trucking Associations

Rob Abbott is vice president of safety policy for the American Trucking Associations (ATA). Mr. Abbott works proactively with ATA members and affiliated organizations to further develop and promote the association's progressive safety agenda. He also represents ATA before the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and other Federal, state, and private sector organizations on safety-related programs and regulatory issues such as Compliance, Safety, Accountability; hours of service; electronic onboard recorders; and distracted driving. Earlier in his career, Mr. Abbott was vice president of safety and compliance for TransForce, Inc., a nationwide transportation staffing firm. He also served as managing director of TransForce Services Group, the U.S. Department of Transportation compliance services division. In that capacity, he advised Fortune 100 transportation companies on how to improve their compliance programs and safety management controls.

Nicholas Artimovich, Federal Highway Administration

Nicholas Artimovich is a senior roadside design engineer with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety Design. He has worked for the FHWA since 1975, and is currently responsible for review and development of roadside design policy and procedures. Mr. Artimovich also reviews crash testing of roadside barriers, bridge railings, barrier terminals, and crash cushions for conformance with FHWA crash test guidance. Mr. Artimovich received his B.S. in civil engineering from the Lowell Technological Institute. He is a member of the American Traffic Safety Services Association and is an officer in both the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) technical committee on roadside safety and the AASHTO/Associated General Contractors of America/American Road & Transportation Builders Association joint committee task force 13.

Nathaniel Beuse, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Nathaniel Beuse directs the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Office of Crash Avoidance Standards, where he is responsible for leading the development and promulgation of *Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards*, voluntary industry actions, and consumer information programs related to vehicle dynamics, vehicle stability and control, and rollover. Mr. Beuse holds both a B.S. in biomedical engineering and a masters degree in mechanical engineering from Marquette University.

Matthew Brumbelow, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Matthew Brumbelow is a senior research engineer at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) Vehicle Research Center. He has been employed at the IIHS since receiving his B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Virginia in 2002. Mr. Brumbelow's research has focused on the performance of vehicle structures and restraint systems in real-world crashes as well as under laboratory test conditions. His findings have contributed to the development of consumer information test programs for frontal crashes, rollovers, and low-speed bumper evaluations. His two most recent studies have shown that rear underride guards on large trucks often fail in relatively low-speed crashes, producing severe passenger vehicle intrusion and serious or fatal injury.

Richard Conklin, Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems

Richard Conklin has been with Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems for 16 years. He is currently a product manager for power unit stability systems and future braking system architecture. He has also worked in product development engineering for multiple product areas and in engineering management. Mr. Conklin earned a BSME from the University of Akron and holds five U.S. patents. He is actively involved in SAE International and the American Trucking Associations Technology & Maintenance Council.

Stephen Evans, Bus Industry Safety Council

Stephen Evans is currently serving as secretary for the Bus Industry Safety Council, the safety arm of the American Bus Association. He is vice president of safety for the Pacific Western Group of Companies, which operates a fleet of 3,000 motorcoaches, transit buses, and school buses throughout Canada and into the United States. Pacific Western provided transit service for the recent 2010 Winter Olympics in the village of Whistler, British Columbia, and was named "operator of the year" in 2010 by the International Motorcoach Group. Mr. Evans is the fourth generation of his family to be involved in transportation. He has been a driver, a skipper, and a pilot. He has a degree in geography and attended the University of Southern California, where he completed an aviation safety management diploma program.

Mary D. Gunnels, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Mary Gunnels is director of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Office of Medical Programs. Dr. Gunnels began Federal service with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2002 and joined the FMCSA in 2004. Dr. Gunnels has more than 15 years of experience in clinical care and program administration. As a faculty member at the Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine in Portland, she conducted research on traffic safety. Her doctoral work explored environmental factors for pedestrian injury using geographic information system methods. Dr. Gunnels has a history of leadership in professional organizations, such as the American Public Health

Association, and has served on injury prevention coalitions and task forces at the community, state, and national levels. She has served as a contributing editor and reviewer to professional journals, written several book chapters, and authored more than 50 scientific papers.

Natalie Hartenbaum, OccuMedix, Inc.

Natalie Hartenbaum is president and chief medical officer of OccuMedix, Inc, an occupational medicine consulting firm located in Dresher, Pennsylvania. Dr. Hartenbaum is a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Preventive Medicine in Occupational Medicine. She received her M.D. from Temple University School of Medicine and holds a master's of public health in occupational medicine from the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She has been a certified medical review officer since 1996. Dr. Hartenbaum is a nationally recognized expert in occupational fitness for duty, with a special focus on transportation. She is editor of *The DOT Medical Examination: A Guide to Commercial Driver Medical Certification*, now in its fifth edition; and *CDME Review*, a quarterly newsletter for commercial driver medical examiners. She has published and lectured nationally on various issues of fitness evaluations in the workplace.

James Johnson, IMMI

James Johnson is vice president of business development and corporate sales for IMMI, Westfield, Indiana, a worldwide leader in design, testing, and manufacturing of advanced safety systems for commercial, industrial, military, and emergency response vehicles, as well as school buses, motorcoaches, and child restraints. During his 19-year tenure with the company, he has been instrumental in leading efforts to integrate advanced occupant protection on a wide range of commercial vehicles, from school buses to heavy trucks. Mr. Johnson graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University in 1990 and is a former ordnance officer in the U.S. Army.

Michael Jordan, Martz Trailways

Michael Jordan is the director of safety and training for Martz Trailways, a division of Martz Group. In addition, he conducts safety and training sessions nationwide for other Martz Group divisions. Prior to joining Martz, Mr. Jordan served for 29 years in the Pennsylvania State Police, commanding 22 state police barracks in 21 counties of northeastern and central Pennsylvania and retiring with the rank of major. During his career with the state police, he participated in, supervised, or commanded all facets of field operations. He has extensive experience in traffic accident, industrial accident, and criminal investigations. Mr. Jordan is a graduate of Kings College, the FBI National Academy, and Pennsylvania State University.

Stephen A. Keppler, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

Stephen Keppler is executive director of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). He has more than 19 years of experience in the transportation industry, most of which has been dedicated to truck and bus safety and security. He has worked at the CVSA since 2000 and was appointed to the position of executive director last year. Earlier in his career, Mr. Keppler served as the department director for vehicle systems at the Intelligent Transportation Society of America, presiding over in-vehicle and vehicle-infrastructure functions. For 6 years, Mr. Keppler was employed with the Federal Highway Administration Office of Motor Carriers, where he conducted compliance reviews and roadside inspections.

Ron Knipling, Traffic Safety and Human Factors Consultant

Ron Knipling is the author of the first and only comprehensive textbook on large truck safety, *Safety for the Long Haul: Large Truck Crash Risk, Causation, & Prevention*, for which he received the International Road Transport Union Order of Merit award, the first given to an American scientist. Dr. Knipling earned a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Maryland and received his B.A. from George Washington University. He has more than 30 years of experience in traffic safety, with emphasis on driver human factors and motor carrier safety. Specialty areas include crash data analysis, driver risk, crash causation, driver fatigue, hours-of-service, technology assessment, and carrier safety management. His accomplishments include more than 220 technical reports, papers, and conference presentations.

Alan Korn, Meritor WABCO

Alan Korn began working with Rockwell WABCO (now Meritor WABCO) in 1990 as engineering manager. He was promoted to chief engineer and later became director of the vehicle dynamics and control business segment, where he is responsible for pneumatic and hydraulic antilock brake systems, stability control, and driver assistance systems. Earlier in his career, he was with Kelsey Hayes Company, Lucas Girling, and Rockwell International. Mr. Korn holds a BSME from Lawrence Institute of Technology. He is active in SAE International and the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association Heavy Duty Brake Manufacturers Council.

Tim L. LaFon, Volvo Trucks North America

Tim LaFon is the manager of regulatory affairs for Volvo Trucks North America. He has worked in the trucking industry for more than 20 years in vehicle manufacturing, design and development, and customer satisfaction. His responsibilities for the last 11 years have focused on motor vehicle safety and regulatory compliance, including safety recalls, vehicle compliance, and TREAD Act reporting for North America operations.

Norm Littler, American Bus Association

Norm Littler is vice president of safety, security, and regulatory programs for the American Bus Association, where he also serves as executive director of the Bus Industry Safety Council and is the association's chief safety and security officer. Additionally, Mr. Littler is chairman emeritus of the Highway and Motor Carrier Sector Coordinating Council, which acts in an advisory capacity to the White House, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and other Federal agencies on issues related to commercial highway transportation security policy, infrastructure protection, and emergency preparedness and response. Mr. Littler has 38 years of transportation experience. He holds an Insurance Institute of America accreditation in risk management.

Robert W. Miller, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Mr. Miller is the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Field Administrator for the Eastern Service Center. He is also the field sponsor for the FMCSA Passenger Technical Advisory Group. He began his career in 1982, collecting and analyzing crash data with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Highway Safety. He transferred to the Office of Motor Carriers in 1988, and was promoted to the position of State Director in 1994. In 2000, Mr. Miller returned to FMCSA headquarters to lead the Information Systems Division, managing the development of over 20 national field software systems. In August 2004, Mr. Miller was selected as Special Assistant to the FMCSA Chief Safety Officer, where he assisted in directing the national motor carrier program. Mr. Miller was promoted to his present position in 2006, and leads motor carrier safety efforts in 15 Divisions. Mr. Miller has a B.S. in Mathematics from James Madison University.

Larry Minor, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Larry Minor is associate administrator for policy and program development at the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). His office is responsible for strategic planning; program evaluation; and policy and program development activities concerning driver qualifications, hours of service, truck and bus safety regulations, and requirements for inspection, repair, and maintenance of commercial vehicles. Mr. Minor began his Federal career in 1989 as a mechanical engineer responsible for developing truck and bus safety regulations for the Federal Highway Administration Office of Motor Carriers. He served as chief of the FMCSA vehicle and roadside operations division from 1999–2005, and director of the Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations from 2005–2007, when he was appointed to his current position. He holds a B.S. in physics from American University and an M.S. in mechanical engineering from The George Washington University.

Louis Molino, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Louis Molino is the Chief of the Light Duty Vehicle Division in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Rulemaking, where he is responsible for leading the development and promulgation of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards in the areas of frontal, side, rear, and rollover crash protection, and crash survivability characteristics. Mr. Molino has been with NHTSA since 1994. He holds both a B.S. and M.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland.

Dean Newell, Maverick USA, Inc.

Dean Newell began his career with Maverick in 1985 as an over-the-road driver. After spending more than 10 years as a driver, he came off the road and held a variety of positions at Maverick's corporate office in Little Rock, Arkansas, including recruiting, training, and safety. He became vice president of safety and driver training in 2000 and is responsible for Maverick's safety and training program for over 1,200 units. Mr. Newell is chairman of the American Trucking Associations (ATA) National Safety Management Council was named the ATA Safety Director of the Year for 2010.

Robert Petrancosta, Con-way Freight

Robert Petrancosta, as vice president of safety for Con-way Freight, is responsible for safety, compliance, and employee wellness for the entire organization. Mr. Petrancosta attended Waubensee College, majoring in hazardous materials technology. He has been an active member of several American Trucking Associations (ATA) committees, including hazardous materials (chair), safety policy, hours of service (subcommittee), occupational safety and health, regulations (chair), and national truck driving championships. Mr. Petrancosta has been appointed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for two 2-year terms on the motor carrier safety advisory committee. He was awarded the ATA Safety and Loss Prevention Management Council's 2006 leadership award.

Dr. Stephanie Pratt, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Stephanie Pratt is a research health scientist for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). As the lead subject matter specialist for road safety, she coordinates the NIOSH Center for Motor Vehicle Safety. Dr. Pratt is a member of the Transportation Research Board committee on vehicle user characteristics, the ANSI Z-15 committee, and the road traffic injury research network. In addition, she serves as a Federal liaison to the network of employers for traffic safety and represents NIOSH in the United Nations road safety collaboration and its work-related road safety project group. Dr. Pratt's current research projects include an international review of occupational crash data and an evaluation of training and management interventions for truck drivers in India. She holds master's degrees in music performance and sociology, and a Ph.D. in political science.

Ken Presley, United Motorcoach Association

Ken Presley is vice president of industry relations and chief operating officer for the United Motorcoach Association (UMA), where his duties include representing the nation's bus and motorcoach industry before Congress and the many regulatory agencies that oversee the industry; consulting with members regarding legislative, regulatory compliance, and business issues; and assisting in the development of national and state policies. Prior to joining the UMA, Mr. Presley was an insurance broker and advocate for the bus and motorcoach industry for 22 years. Along with his current duties, Mr. Presley serves on the board of directors of bus and motorcoach associations in Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and New York.

Bryan Price, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Bryan Price is a senior transportation specialist with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), where he has served in various capacities for 21 years. In his initial assignment, Mr. Price was a safety investigator in Missouri. He was then promoted to a position at FMCSA headquarters in Washington, DC, to participate in the development and management of national truck and bus safety enforcement programs. Mr. Price is currently focused on deployment and improvement of the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability (CSA) operational model. He earned a degree in transportation and logistics from the University of Arkansas.

Todd Spencer, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

Todd Spencer is the executive vice president of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA). Mr. Spencer began his career in trucking more than 35 years ago as an employee-driver. He purchased his first truck in 1976 and traveled most of the United States as an owner-operator, pulling flatbeds and drop-deck trailers. In 1981, Mr. Spencer sold his two trucks and assumed the role of editor of the association magazine, *Land Line*, and communications director. In 1992, he was elected to his present position in OOIDA. Mr. Spencer has spearheaded OOIDA's legislative efforts at Federal and state levels, educating lawmakers on the life and concerns of the small business trucking professional. Mr. Spencer currently serves on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration motor carrier safety advisory committee and the Transportation Research Board committee on trucking industry research.