



THE TSC NEWSLETTER

2025 Issue 1

Adjusting to a New Reality: *A new Administration comes to town*



President Donald Trump poses for a photo during his first Administration (Credit: Getty Images)

Elections have consequences. Regardless of one's personal political preferences, this maxim always holds true and its impact to truck safety is no exception.

TSC has been busy getting up to speed with all the new changes, building relationships with new officials and staff, and sounding the alarm when things aren't being handled properly – regardless of which political party is in power.

TSC has also been hitting the road!!! TRUCK Safety Roadshows that emphasize the need for law enforcement to properly identify and document underride crashes have been held in Columbus, OH and Helena, MT. Law enforcement partners were highly engaged in the content and also enthusiastically shared additional challenges they see on the frontlines of CMV enforcement.

-Zach & Johnetha

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Join us for two powerful events bringing together advocates, survivors, and supporters to honor lives lost and push for a safer future.



Save the Date TSC Signature Events

3rd Annual Night to Celebrate Truck Safety (9/26)

&

Biennial Sorrow to Strength Conference (9/27-9/30)



Sept. 26 - 30, 2025



Washington, D.C.

*Hyatt Regency Washington on
Capitol Hill*

More details coming soon—mark your calendars!

PARTNER IN PURPOSE



We are currently seeking sponsors for:

★ **A Night to Celebrate Truck Safety**
September 26, 2025 – Washington, D.C.
An evening of remembrance, recognition, and renewed commitment to safer roads.

★ **Sorrow to Strength 2025**
September 27–30, 2025 – Washington, D.C.

CONTACT Johnetha Lindsey, Director of Strategic Partnerships & Development at johnetha@trucksafety.org or (202) 937-6430 today!!!

Be a part of our signature events that bring together advocates, survivors, policymakers, and supporters to drive change and honor lives lost.

A Night to Celebrate Truck Safety is TSC's Signature Fundraising Gala. Donors, partners, volunteers and friends gather to celebrate our lifesaving impact and raise funds to sustain our mission.

TSC's cornerstone victim training and advocacy event, Sorrow to Strength, empowers crash victims and families to share their stories and speak truth to power on Capitol Hill.

Sponsorship packages include a variety of benefits—from event recognition and speaking opportunities to impact reports and visibility across our national network.

Demonstrate your support for truck crash victims and the most respected and influential organization advancing truck safety and sign up to Sponsor one or both events today! Email johnetha@trucksafety.org

TRUCK SAFETY COALITION

IN THE NEWS

Truck safety enforcement plummets under Trump, data shows

The agency that pursues safety violations by trucking companies has dramatically slowed its pace of actions to a Post review.

April 7, 2025

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[Washington Post: Truck Safety Enforcement Plummets under Trump](#)

[Read Article](#)

Additional Stories



Cal Matters:
[License to Kill – California DMV allows dangerous drivers to operate, including CDLs.](#)

Freightwaves: FMCSA extends Sleeper Berth Exemption over TSC's objections



CBS Austin:
[Texas Leads Nation in Truck Crash Deaths: Reforms Needed](#)

Government Affairs Update

New Leadership at DOT, FMCSA & NHTSA

Since our last newsletter, **Sean Duffy** has been confirmed as the **Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT)**. As noted last newsletter, he has previously supported heavier trucks on interstate highways, Hours of Service exemptions, delays on Electronic Logging Device implementation, and teen trucking.



 **Steven Bradbury**, the Chief Counsel for DOT in Trump's first term, has been confirmed as the **Deputy Secretary of DOT**. During his first DOT tenure he oversaw all of DOT's rulemaking and enforcement actions. Notably, Hours of Service regulations were weakened and several safety oriented rulemakings stalled or were withdrawn.

 **Derek Barrs** has been nominated to be the **Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**. Formerly the Chief of Florida's Highway Patrol, Derek has extensive experience in CMV enforcement and was a leadership member within CVSA, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance.



 **Jonathan Morrison**, who served as Chief Counsel of NHTSA during President Trump's first term, has been nominated to be the **NHTSA Administrator**. During Morrison's first tenure with the Administration, he allowed industry representatives to edit a draft government report concerning underride protections. He most recently was an Apple executive

Legislative Updates

 - **H.R. 758: The Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act** was re-introduced in the 119th Congress by Congressman Connolly (D-VA-11) and Congressman Comer (R-KY-1). It **passed the House** without amendment via suspension 402-16.

 - **Surface Transportation Reauthorization:** The bill that authorizes interstate transportation is due to be reauthorized in 2026 which means discussions on what to include in the bill are underway. TSC is pushing for a wide number of truck safety improvements, to include requiring that truck drivers in fatal crashes be screened for drugs and other substances with automatic violations to their Compliance, Safety, and Accountability score if they choose to ignore this requirement. Currently, there is **NO** penalty, which results in roughly 60% of truck drivers avoiding testing following fatal crashes every year, with no consequence to the motor carrier and leaves the nation with no clue as to how often drugs and alcohol are causing fatal truck crashes. This is absurd and unacceptable.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LEE JACKSON - A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE & ROAD SAFETY



For more than 30 years, Lee Jackson has stood as a steadfast advocate for the Truck Safety Coalition's mission—offering his expertise, compassion, and time to honor victims and champion safer roads. A retired police officer and seasoned Crash/Accident Investigator and Reconstructionist, Lee has spent his professional life navigating the complexities of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) crashes—from the collision scene to the courtroom.

Lee first connected with the Truck Safety Coalition through engagement with Citizens for Reliable And Safe Highways (CRASH), where he saw an urgent need: survivors and family members, while incredibly courageous, often lacked the technical knowledge to fully grasp how and why these devastating crashes occur. Drawing from his deep understanding of collision dynamics, CMV operations, and driver hours-of-service regulations, Lee began volunteering to educate crash survivors and prepare them to advocate effectively before Congress.

Over the years, Lee's contributions have grown exponentially. He serves on the TSC Board of Directors and his leadership on the Advisory Committee for Underride Protection (ACUP) was critical in raising awareness of the long overdue need to improve underride protection. His expertise was on display during TSC's Tennessee Roadshow where he lectured law enforcement on underrides.

Lee and his wife Rhonda also give generously through in-kind support, donating time at their beach condo for TSC's Silent Auction—a gesture of healing and respite for survivors.

Lee's story is a powerful reminder that lasting change happens when lived experience meets unwavering purpose. His legacy is one of service, empathy, and action. We're deeply honored to recognize his commitment to justice and road safety—and we thank him for the many ways he lifts up the TSC community.



"I saw that I could help them understand how the system worked, and how they could change it. That's still what drives me today."

- Lee Jackson

TRUCK SAFETY ROADSHOWS KEEP ROLLING!



TSC Victim Volunteer, **Lisa Alleman** with her daughter **Grey** in attendance, spoke movingly on the critical importance everyday law enforcement can play in saving lives from preventable truck crashes. Lisa lost her **beloved husband Ronald**, in an underride crash on December 17, 2008.

Forty officers attended and deepened their appreciation and understanding of this important issue.

ROADSHOW #4 : COLUMBUS, OHIO



ROADSHOW #5 : HELENA, MT



Just a few days later, TSC jetted over to **Helena, Montana** for the most engaged session yet! TSC Advisory Board Member, **Robert Martineau**, got everyone up to speed on how side guard protections are feasible, effective, and fast becoming adopted at the city-level in various locations across North America, including most recently Toronto!

The 70+ group also shared their greatest frustrations with “bad-faith” carriers and echoed the NTSB Recommendation for Electronic Logging Devices to have audit logs.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Alexa Gomberg

New volunteer, **Alexa Gomberg** has wasted no time in making a difference for truck safety. After losing her best friend, Minh-Thi Nguyen, in a box truck crash on MIT's campus. Just 5 months later, she organized a massive rally for cyclist safety on the World Day of Remembrance for traffic crash victims.

Fast forward to March of 2025 and Alexa was ready to meet with her lawmakers to demand improvements in trucks safety, such as stronger underride protections. Alexa is the embodiment of resilience, leadership and action. TSC is incredibly proud to be part of her journey!



Alexa Gomberg (left) in the House Rayburn Building with TSC Executive Director, Zach Cahalan

TSC MEETS NEW T&I MEMBERS



TSC has engaged several policymakers to impress upon them the importance to improve truck safety. The House Subcommittee on Highways & Transit held a Meet N' Greet for the new House Members to get to know all the stakeholders

The event was very well attended by Members new and old and TSC made sure the views of truck crash victims and survivors were heard loud and clear.

2025 Annual Campaign

Q1 off to a great start!



WE ARE 65% AWAY FROM ACHEIVING OUR QUARTERLY GOAL!

We're off to a strong start—thanks to you!

We've raised **\$34,000** toward our **\$100,000** goal for the first quarter, and we're just about to hit our first big milestone of the year! With three months down and momentum building, we have 85% yet to go to reach our goal for the 2025 Annual Campaign. Every gift brings us closer to ensuring that crash victims and their families have the support they need—when they need it most.

Help us keep going strong. [**DONATE online today!**](#)

Follow us on Social Media!



- Comment on our Posts!
- Share or Retweet our Posts
- Offer and Receive Support in the [Survivor, Families & Friends Community on Facebook](#)
- Tag us!
- Engage with our Community
- Join our Zoom nights
- Sign up for our Action Alerts and Newsletter!