

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 26, 2024

The Honorable Sophie Shulman  
Deputy Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Deputy Administrator Shulman,

Thank you for your service to the United States. I write to request an update on NHTSA's research of Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) systems' effectiveness in detecting motorcycles, and to urge NHTSA to fully consider the effect of new vehicle technology on the safety of motorcyclists when issuing new regulations.

In a June 2023 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, NHTSA proposed to adopt a new Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard to require AEB systems on light vehicles, but acknowledged that NHTSA "does not have data on how AEB systems would respond to other vehicle types such as heavy vehicles or motorcycles."<sup>1</sup> To address this gap, NHTSA noted that it was conducting research to determine the effect of AEB technology in detecting and responding to motorcycles, and expected completion of the study by the end of 2023.

To ensure this new technology performs effectively in protecting motorcycle drivers, I request an update on this research and, if necessary, urge NHTSA to incorporate this research into a rulemaking to better protect motorcycle drivers.

NHTSA must ensure new technologies are regulated in a way that protects all drivers, especially those at higher risk of serious injury or death; as of 2019, motorcyclists represented 21% of total driver fatalities in Georgia despite making up just 2% of all drivers.<sup>2</sup> As drivers become more reliant on automated technology, it is crucial that NHTSA researches the technologies' effect on motorcyclists and incorporates this research into future rulemakings.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.regulations.gov/document/NHTSA-2023-0021-0007>

<sup>2</sup> <https://dds.georgia.gov/press-releases/2021-09-09/motorcycle-fact-sheet>

I respectfully request an update in writing within one month of receipt.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Ossoff", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator