



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

MAY - 7 2013

Mr. Wayne Allard
American Motorcyclist Association
101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 800W
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Allard:

Thank you for your April 24 letter to Secretary LaHood applauding the U.S. Department of Transportation's ongoing efforts to combat distracted driving. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the lead agency that conducts research and oversees activities to prevent distracted driving in passenger motor vehicles, and the Secretary asked that I respond.

We are pleased that the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) supports our efforts to curtail distracted driving. As you point out, in-vehicle technologies can distract driver attention and increase the risk of all motorists, including motorcyclists.

The new NHTSA Visual-Manual Driver Distraction Guidelines will help curtail the dangerous practice of distracted driving by limiting the amount of time drivers take their eyes off the road, and their hands off the wheel. The guidelines are part of Secretary LaHood's Blueprint for Ending Distracted Driving, a comprehensive plan that builds on the national momentum the Department has spearheaded for the last 3 years. The Blueprint can be downloaded from <http://www.distraction.gov>.

Thank you for offering the AMA as a resource whenever emerging technologies are discussed. I shared your letter with Mr. Philip Weiser, Chief of NHTSA's Safety Countermeasures Division. His division oversees all motorcycle behavioral safety issues. He can be reached at (202) 366-1644 or Philip.Weiser@dot.gov.

Given the complexity of the distracted driving problem, it is critical that we work together to address potential solutions. We look forward to working with the AMA on this and other important highway safety issues.

Sincerely yours,

Brian M. McLaughlin
Senior Associate Administrator
Traffic Injury Control