



January 16, 2026

The Honorable Jonathan Morrison  
Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Agency Information Collection Activities; Notice and Request for Comment; Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and Non-Traffic Surveillance (NTS)

Docket No. [NHTSA-2025-0721](#)

Dear Administrator Morrison:

The Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) is critical to understanding and improving traffic safety in the United States. The League of American Bicyclists (League) strongly supports continued efforts to make FARS the best possible system for data on traffic deaths, including sufficient funding to ensure state participation and the ability to capture data on new vehicle types such as electrically-assisted bicycles and autonomous vehicles.

The League is a national non-profit organization dedicated to building a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. We envision a nation where everyone, whether they bike or not, recognizes and enjoys the many benefits and opportunities of bicycling and where everyone can experience the joy of bicycling. With FARS data showing a record number of bicyclists being killed on American roads in 2022 and 2023, improving roadway safety is critical to Americans feeling safe bicycling.

Bicycling is one of the most common forms of physical activity for Americans. [Research](#) from 2022 found that bicycling was the third most common form of leisure time physical activity for Americans. The [Outdoor Industry Association](#) lists bicycling as one of six outdoor activities that people are most attracted to, with its 2025 participation report indicating those activities gained an average of 2.1 million people in 2025. [Bringing back physical fitness](#) is a stated priority of the Trump administration, and bicycling is one of the most common ways that people engage in physical fitness. Making sure that people can safely ride their bikes is critical to the administration's priority and FARS is critical to understanding and improving bicyclist safety.



The League uses FARS extensively in our work to promote safer bicycling. Our data repository on [data.bikeleague.org](https://data.bikeleague.org) includes over thirty figures that rely on FARS and we regularly use FARS data in fact sheets, blogs, and other materials to identify specific traffic safety issues and trends that impact bicyclist safety. FARS allows us to understand important issues such as helmet use, vehicle types involved in fatal crashes, speed limits for roads where bicyclists were killed, roadway ownership where bicyclists were killed, and whether a bicyclist was in a shoulder or bike lane when killed. The consistency of FARS allows us to report trends going back decades, including the tragic record numbers of bicyclist deaths in recent years.

FARS could be improved so that its information is available more quickly and so that it meets evolving needs for understanding traffic safety issues. Currently, there is about a two-year lag before FARS data is available, and it would be great to have data available sooner. Major issues of importance to the bicyclist community, such as the impact of e-bikes or other micromobility devices on traffic safety and better data on the type of bicycle infrastructure present or not present at a fatal crash site, would be welcome. If NHTSA would like to expand its data collection to address these issues we encourage NHTSA to seek public input before making any substantial changes.

FARS is essential to understanding and improving traffic safety in the United States. While [recent](#) decreases in traffic deaths are promising, traffic deaths continue to be one of the most common reasons that Americans die prematurely. The League strongly supports continued robust data collection through FARS.

Best,

Ken McLeod  
Policy Director  
The League of American Bicyclists  
[Ken@bikeleague.org](mailto:Ken@bikeleague.org)