



January 20, 2026

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

Re: Docket No. NHTSA-2025-0721, Fatality Analysis Reporting System and Non-Traffic Surveillance

Submitted electronically to <https://www.regulations.gov/>

Dear Administrator Morrison:

AARP, which advocates on behalf of 125 million Americans age 50 and older, is pleased to support the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) request for continued approval of the information collection supporting the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS is the most comprehensive nationwide source of information about fatalities from motor vehicle crashes and enables government agencies and other stakeholders to make informed decisions on vehicle design and roadway safety. We urge the Office of Management and Budget to approve the information collection without delay and NHTSA to continue funding and updating this important resource.

Importantly, the FARS database has shown that older adults are at higher-than-average risk of death in vehicle crashes. People age 65 and older experienced 13.31 fatalities per 100,000 people in motor vehicle crashes in 2023, higher than the 12.21 fatality rate per 100,000 people across all age groups.¹ Using FARS data, NHTSA estimates that 39,345 people were killed in traffic crashes in 2024, an average of more than 100 deaths every day.² For AARP and others, FARS is a crucial tool to understand the impact of motor vehicle crashes on older adults. FARS data is a

¹ NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts Annual Report Tables, Table 57, 2023 data, accessed at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813738>.

² NHTSA, "NHTSA Estimates 39.345 Traffic Fatalities in 2024," April 8, 2025, <https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/nhtsa-estimates-39345-traffic-fatalities-2024>.

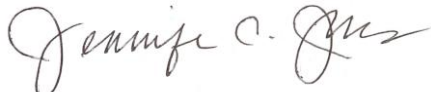
key data source used by the AARP Livability Index™ platform to calculate crash rates for every neighborhood in the United States.

FARS data has limitations: key crash details (such as location, speed, and direction of travel) are sometimes missing, and annual datasets can take months to publish. We recommend that NHTSA collaborate with state agencies and safety organizations to improve data quality and streamline collection, including expanding electronic reporting while keeping the dataset publicly accessible. To maintain the data's value for researchers and policymakers, any substantial changes to the system should be open for public comment before adoption.

AARP encourages you to prioritize timely updates to the FARS database in NHTSA's work plan for the coming year. The FARS database helps safety professionals understand emerging trends, design safety innovations to address those trends, and track progress toward safer roadways for all road users, including older adults.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to improve safety on America's roads. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff reach out to Coralette Hannon of our Government Affairs team at channon@aarpp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer C. Jones".

Jennifer Jones

Vice President, Financial Security and Livable Communities
AARP Government Affairs