



January 20, 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:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the importance of the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and the Non-Traffic Surveillance (NTS) system. We at the National Safety Council (NSC) understand that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is looking for input on whether the information collected through FARS and NTS has practical utility. We urge NHTSA to protect and sustain these essential databases with dedicated funding for continued public use, as they are foundational to nearly every **evidence-based** roadway safety decision made in the United States.

NSC is America's leading nonprofit safety advocate – and has been for over 110 years. As a mission-based organization, we work to eliminate the leading causes of preventable death and injury, focusing our efforts on the workplace and roadway. We create a culture of safety to protect people from hazard and injury in the workplace and beyond so they can live their fullest lives. Our more than 13,000 member companies and federal agency partners represent employees at nearly 41,000 U.S. worksites.

FARS and NTS, managed by NHTSA, play a critical role in improving roadway safety across the United States. FARS provides a comprehensive and standardized database of all fatal motor vehicle crashes to enable: policy development by supplying the empirical foundation for federal and state traffic safety programs and guiding interventions to reduce fatalities; trend analysis by facilitating the monitoring of long-term trends in crash fatalities to help identify emerging risks and evaluate the effectiveness of safety measures; research and innovation by giving academic institutions, transportation agencies and industry stakeholders data to develop new solutions and inform vehicle safety standards; and public awareness by making data accessible to foster informed public discourse on roadway safety and support advocacy efforts. Without this consistent and authoritative national dataset, policymakers and researchers would lack the clarity needed to accurately diagnose problems or prioritize lifesaving interventions.



The NTS complements FARS to provide a complete picture of motor-vehicle related hazards and harm – capturing incidents in parking lots, off-road environments, and scenarios underrepresented in traffic statistics like carbon monoxide poisoning, entrapments, and hyperthermia. NTS data uniquely sheds light on risks that otherwise remain hidden in traditional traffic reporting, making it a crucial resource for understanding the full scope of **vehicle-related** harm. This reporting is important in informing safety standards and shaping safety interventions and policy.

NSC uses both FARS and NTS to keep people safe. The data from these systems informs the Injury Facts® we publish which safety professionals, journalists, government workers, educators, business owners, parents and more trust to make decisions. Accurate and transparent national data is the backbone of our ability to guide **decision-makers**, advise employers, and communicate risks to the public. As the leader of the Road to Zero Coalition, NSC needs the reliable data from FARS and NTS to realize the goal of ending roadway deaths in the United States by 2050.

In summary, FARS and NTS are indispensable tools for improving highway safety, shaping policy and ultimately saving lives. Without continued federal stewardship and open public access to these datasets, the nation's safety community would be forced to operate without the evidence necessary to identify risks, measure outcomes, or hold systems accountable. Simply put, without FARS and NTS, safety advocates would be navigating one of the nation's most urgent public health challenges in the dark – and lives would be lost as a result. Their robust, standardized and transparent data frameworks ensure that decision-makers and researchers have the insights necessary to address critical traffic safety challenges. NSC urges NHTSA to prioritize maintaining and improving FARS and NTS for future use.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Martin
CEO
National Safety Council