



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
June 4, 1975

DOT 45-75
Phone: (202) 426-9550

The U. S. Department of Transportation issued a regulation today that requires the states to certify they have adopted the 55 mile per hour national maximum speed limit on all public highways.

The regulation is designed to strengthen President Ford's program to conserve energy and increase safety through enforcement of the speed limit.

The President emphasized again in his televised address of May 27 that "this country needs to regain its independence from foreign sources of energy. And the sooner the better."

Strict observance of the 55 mph speed limit would save an estimated 200,000 barrels of oil a day, compared to consumption prior to establishment of the 55 mph limit.

Under the new regulation, the states would have to submit certain data to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the two transportation agencies that share responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the rule.

As adopted, the regulation does not vary significantly from the proposal issued in March 1975. However, the comment period on two sections of the regulation has been reopened until June 30, 1975. The sections deal with speed limit enforcement and speed limit observance by motorists.

In connection with these sections of the regulation, the FHWA and the NHTSA will conduct meetings in Chicago, June 5-6, and Washington, D.C., June 9. Regional administrators from the two federal agencies, representatives from the Federal Energy Administration, governors' highway safety representatives, chief state law enforcement officers, and energy conservation and highway officials are invited to attend the meetings.

The national speed limit was converted from a temporary measure into a permanent one earlier this year when President Ford signed into law the Federal-Aid Highway Amendments of 1974.

The new law provides that the secretary of transportation may withhold approval of federal-aid highway projects in any state which fails to certify by January 1 of each year that it is enforcing the speed limit requirements of the Act.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

FOR RELEASE MONDAY
June 9, 1975

DOT 46-75
Phone: (202) 426-4321

The U.S. Department of Transportation today released a report on consumer concerns in transportation.

Titled, "The Voice of the Transportation Consumer," the report covers three years of extensive efforts by the department's Office of Consumer Affairs to hear consumer transportation concerns.

"The report tells us in very specific terms just what is on the minds of consumers," Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., said. "It will be a valuable reference for the department in determining what direction to go in fulfilling the transportation needs of America."

The report is the result of 54 public hearings held throughout the nation by Office of Consumer Affairs Director Ann Uccello. Some 4,100 persons attended the hearings with many attending as representatives of organizations and associations.

The report covers consumer concerns on such topics as automobiles, aviation, railroads, buses, bicycles, rapid transit and highways.

Also covered in the report are the special problems of the elderly and handicapped transportation users.

Among other topics, citizen participation in transportation planning and the role of the government in fulfilling the transportation needs of Americans are discussed.

Copies of the report can be obtained at a cost of \$15.25 by writing:

National Technical Information Service
5600 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Va. 22151
Order Number: PB 241765

Also available is an executive summary of the report. Titled "The Voice of the Transportation Consumer Executive Summary," it can be obtained at a cost of \$5.25 by writing:

National Technical Information Service
5600 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Va. 22151
Order Number: PB 241764

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

DOT 47-75
Phone: (202) 426-4321

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
June 12, 1975

In support of President Ford's call for greater governmental responsiveness to the concerns of consumers, Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., has directed all administrations and secretarial offices within the Department of Transportation to implement the following recommendations to further citizen involvement in DOT decisions:

- DOT operating administrations should use to the fullest practical extent the advance notice of proposed rulemaking to give consumers the earliest possible notice of the department's intent to make a rule.
- The time for public comment on a notice of proposed rulemaking following publication in the Federal Register should be a minimum of 45 days whenever possible.
- The operating administrations should give the public opportunity for comment when making rules which have substantial public interest even when federal regulations exempt the rules from such comment.

The recommendations are the result of a study by the department's Office of Consumer Affairs to determine how best to attain consumer participation in the department's decision making process.

Secretary Coleman also urged administrations and secretarial offices to make extensive use of the additional techniques suggested in the study such as making direct contact with interested consumer groups to increase citizen participation in the DOT rule and decision making process.

The study, available in a report entitled "Consumer Involvement in Rulemaking" is available at a cost of \$3.75 from:

National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22151
Order Number: PB 241575

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
June 13, 1975

DOT R-24-75
Tel. 202-426-9550

The U. S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Safety Advisory Committee has urged the Secretary of Transportation to take steps to insure that the 55 mph speed limit is properly enforced in all the States.

In a recent meeting held in Washington, the Committee also adopted positions recommending that States meet minimum federal safety standards for highway construction on the Interstate System, and that highest priority be given to the passage of mandatory safety belt use laws by the individual States. Other recommendations included an intensive public information and education campaign on the use of safety belts, and the rapid obligation of highway safety construction funds.

The Advisory Committee is a 38 member group that advises the Secretary of Transportation on matters relating to highway safety activities. Thirteen new members of the Committee were sworn in during the May meeting.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TAD 493
NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE MONDAY
June 16, 1975

DOT 48-75
Phone: (202) 426-4321

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the Transportation Association of America will jointly sponsor the fifth National Cargo Security Conference and Exhibit at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., on March 30-31, 1976.

The conference theme will be "Cargo Security -- A Progress Report to the President."

The event coincides with transmittal of a report to President Gerald R. Ford on the effectiveness of voluntary programs in cutting theft-related losses.

Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., said the report will represent contributions from all elements of the transportation sector. He added that the report is required by a presidential executive order calling for a yearly evaluation from the Secretary of Transportation on theft-related cargo losses.

"I look for input from all facets of our industry -- shippers, freight forwarders, insurers and organized labor -- to help us in submitting recommendations to dramatically cut the inflation-producing \$1 billion annual loss from cargo theft."

Paul J. Tierney, president of the Transportation Association of America, expects record attendance at the conference.

"Industry and labor leaders are convinced cargo theft is controllable," he said. "They are determined to confront all aspects of the problem to develop systems to prevent cargo losses."

Tierney cited a report by Lee R. Sollenbarger, first vice chairman of the American Trucking Association and an executive of a major trucking company, that his own company experienced the profit equivalent of \$20 million of new business by improving its security program.

- more -

Tierney predicts that as more industry leaders see the opportunity to increase profits by adopting proven security techniques they will "close ranks" to curtail cargo losses.

"The net effect will be to help in the fight against inflation caused by crime and at the same time increase profits," Tierney said.

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TAD-493

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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FOR RELEASE TUESDAY
June 17, 1975

DOT 49-75
Phone: (202) 426-4321

Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., will open the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation Quality two-day meeting at the U.S. Department of Transportation June 23-24.

The committee will discuss strategy for consumer participation in transportation energy conservation.

It will explore steps that might be taken to increase public awareness, improve the conservation ethic, and increase compliance with policies that are designed to promote more effective use of transportation energy, especially public compliance with the 55 miles per hour national speed limit.

The 21-member committee recommends transportation initiatives to the Secretary of Transportation, and assesses transportation policies from the consumer's viewpoint. Its members are appointed by the Secretary and serve for three years.

Sessions on both days will begin at 9 a.m. and will be held in room Room 2230, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

Persons wishing additional information should contact Joseph DelVecchio of the department's Office of Consumer Affairs at (202) 426-4283.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
June 18, 1975

DOT R-25-75
Phone: (202) 426-4321

Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., today announced the appointment of Ernest Ray Warner, Jr., as Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs. The appointment became effective June 9, 1975.

Warner joined the Department of Transportation in February 1970 as Special Assistant to the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, after having served as a consultant to the Department.

In April 1971, Warner was appointed congressional liaison officer for the department's urban mass transportation programs, a position he held until his appointment as director. In December 1974 he was commended by then Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar for the key role he played in the passage of the National Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1974. Recently, he has also been serving as acting director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Born in July 1941 in Alexandria, Va., he was graduated from William and Mary College in 1963 with a bachelor of arts degree in economics. He served in the Army's Medical Corps from March 1964 to March 1966.

Warner studied at the Brookings Institution's Center for Advanced Study as a fellow in the Intergovernmental Affairs Fellowship Program during 1970.

Warner resides with his wife, the former Susan Hall Roche of Washington, D.C., and their two children in Oakton, Va.

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FOR RELEASE MONDAY
June 23, 1975

DOT 50-75
Tel. 202-426-9550

More than 400 persons will examine the priorities involved in the issuance of motor vehicle safety standards when they convene in San Francisco July 14, 15, and 16 for the Fourth International Congress on Automotive Safety.

The three-day conference at the Hotel St. Francis is sponsored by the U. S. Department of Transportation's National Motor Vehicle Safety Advisory Council. Representatives from Australia, Belgium, Germany, England, France, Japan, Sweden and the United States are participating.

The opening session on July 14 will feature an informal panel discussion on public acceptance of vehicle safety; compatibility of safety and cost; and the need to integrate the regulatory processes for safety, damageability, emissions, noise and fuel economy.

Dr. James B. Gregory, Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will represent the federal government on the panel.

Albert Benjamin Kelley, Senior Vice President of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, will present the consumer viewpoint.

Representing the manufacturing viewpoint will be William D. Eberle, President of the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, and Henry L. Duncombe Jr., Vice President and Chief Economist, General Motors Corp. Speaking for the

automobile dealers will be Gilbert E. Carmichael, Vice President of the American Imported Dealers Association and Chairman of the Executive Subcommittee, National Highway Safety Advisory Committee. Also participating will be John Z. DeLorean, a former industry executive and now an automotive consultant.

Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) will be the congress' luncheon speaker immediately following the opening session discussion.

The Advisory Council is a 22-member group created by the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 to advise the secretary of transportation on federal motor vehicle safety standards administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Its members represent the general public, researchers, national organizations, consumer groups, state and local officials, and the automotive industry.

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FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
June 27, 1975

DOT 52-75
Phone: (202) 426-4321

The U.S. Department of Transportation today released the seventh annual report on the administration of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968.

Prepared by the department's Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), the report covers the 1974 calendar year.

The OPS has the responsibility for safety regulation of natural gas pipeline systems which involve more than 2,100 operators and cover approximately 1.43 million miles of gas pipeline systems. These gas pipelines transport more than a third of the nation's energy supply and serve more than 44 million customers.

In addition, the OPS has safety responsibility over liquid pipelines operated by carriers engaged in interstate commerce. Some 240,000 miles of such liquid pipelines transport crude oil, petroleum products, liquefied petroleum gases and anhydrous ammonia.

During 1974, the OPS also was given new responsibilities relating to pipeline safety requirements in the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and the Transportation Safety Act of 1974.

The annual report cites several major accomplishments by the Office of Pipeline Safety during 1974, including:

-- Conducted 157 on-site evaluations, including 90 evaluations of gas operators and 67 evaluations of liquid carriers. State agencies conducted 12,504 evaluations of gas operators subject to federal safety jurisdiction. Thirty-four civil penalties were assessed against gas operators by OPS during 1974.

- more -

-- Organized an operations division to directly supervise the operator compliance monitoring work of the OPS regional offices.

-- Began the process of opening four additional regional offices which will be located in Philadelphia, Atlanta, Kansas City and San Francisco.

-- Continued studies on the analysis and management of the leak and failure reporting system data; development of comprehensive information for gas and liquid pipelines relating to the rapid shutdown of failed pipeline facilities and the limiting of pressure to prevent failures.

-- Increased state participation in gas pipeline safety programs through cooperation of 51 state agencies, including Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, with the department.

-- OPS and state agencies jointly sponsored 19 2-day gas pipeline safety seminars attended by a total of 1,051 safety personnel from private industry and government. OPS held five 5-day courses in gas pipeline safety which were attended by 72 state agency pipeline safety personnel. Thirty-nine states applied for grant-in-aid funds totaling \$1.175 million.

The report also discusses pipeline failures, casualties and leaks; amendments to the federal gas pipeline safety standards issued in 1974; dissemination of pipeline safety information; cooperation with other federal agencies and recommendations for additional legislation.

Copies of the report entitled, "Seventh Annual Report on the Administration of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968," are available from:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Pipeline Safety (TES-30)
Washington, D.C. 20590
Phone: (202) 426-3292

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 30, 1975

DOT R-27-75
Phone: (202) 426-4321

John Hart Ely, 37, a former professor at Harvard Law School, was sworn in as general counsel of the U.S. Department of Transportation today by Judge James Skelly Wright of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Ely succeeds Rodney Eugene Eyster, who resigned.

President Gerald R. Ford nominated the Brookline, Mass., native to the Department of Transportation post on May 8, 1975.

Ely had been a member of the Harvard Law School faculty since 1973. From 1971 to 1973, he was a professor of law at Yale Law School and an associate professor of law there since 1968.

Ely was graduated summa cum laude in 1960 from Princeton University, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He received his LL.B. degree magna cum laude in 1963 from Yale Law School. He was staff attorney for the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy during 1964, and then served as law clerk to Chief Justice Earl Warren from 1964 to 1965.

He assumes his new duties as DOT's chief legal advisor immediately.

Ely and his wife, the former Nancy Halliday, have two children.

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