**New York Division, *Our Roads Our Safety* Talking Points for Safety Partners**

## What is *Our Roads, Our Safety*?

* The *Our Roads, Our Safety* (Our Roads) campaign provides all road users with information on how to share the road safely with one another. In line with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s mission to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses, this campaign focuses on the responsibility that road users understand the operating differences between different types of vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles (CMVs), and change their behavior accordingly.
* Efforts focusing on safe driving for CMV drivers and the passenger vehicle (or regular car) drivers operating around those large vehicles.

## Why is this effort important for New York?

* FMCSA’s New York Division Office is bringing Our Roads to the state to reduce crashes, particularly along I-95 and I-87 between New York City and Albany.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* In 2021, there were 9,148 large truck and bus crashes, resulting in 125 fatalities.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* New York is unique in that there is a high concentration of passenger carriers due to:
  + Statewide tourism including in New York City
  + Population density of New York metropolitan area
  + Proximity to U.S.-Canadian border and other major east coast cities
* Crashes involving buses persist in New York, mainly because of the higher proportion of urban driving in New York City. Risks specific to buses include:
  + Higher passenger capacity and pedestrian activity.
  + Proximity to “vulnerable” transportation modes, such as micro-mobility users and pedestrians.
  + Frequent entering and departing traffic.
* The goal for New York’s Our Roads campaign is to eliminate highway fatalities due to CMV collisions.

## Key messages and calls to action

### For CMV drivers:

* The New York’s Our Roads campaign emphasizes the need for all vehicles to share the road safely.
* Always obey all traffic laws: Wear your seatbelt, obey the speed limit, slow for work zones, and don’t drive distracted. Unsafe driving behaviors can lead to crashes or even fatalities.
* Make sure your vehicle is in safe working order, and follow all regulations regarding hours of service, medical certification, and CMV credentialing and driver licensing.
* Know your route, obey the laws, pay attention to signs for bridge clearances and commercial vehicle restricted roadways.
  + Additional information can be found in NY DOT’s [Parkway Truck Brochure](https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/osss/repository/parkway%20truck%20brochure.pdf).
* Plan your route ahead of time, use commercial GPS units as suggested, and maintain awareness of vehicle clearance.
* Additional tips for CMV drivers can be found at FMCSA’s website [here](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-truck-and-bus-drivers).

### For passenger vehicle drivers:

* Obey the speed limit and wear your seatbelt.
* Stay focused; driving distracted is as dangerous as driving impaired.
* Never drive under the influence; there is no safe limit for drinking before driving.
* Buses may make frequent stops: be prepared to stop and watch for disembarking passengers.
* When driving around large trucks and buses, be patient and leave more space.
* Drivers of large trucks and buses have natural blind spots: Don’t cut off CMVs and don’t drive on the left or right side of those vehicles for a long period of time.
* Large trucks take 40% more space to stop: Don’t follow CMVs too closely or merge or make sudden stops directly in front of them.
* Additional tips for motorists can be found at FMCSA’s *Our Roads, Our Safety* website [here](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-driving-safely-around-large-trucks-or-buses).

## State Data and other Facts & Figures

* In 2021,
  + There were 9,148 large truck and bus crashes resulting in 125 fatalities.
  + Distracted driving was the top crash factor for New York, causing 3,077 large truck- or- bus-involved crashes.2
  + 2,124 crashes were caused by following too closely, which was the second-highest crash factor.2
* Additional metrics can be found at:
  + [New York City Open Source Crash Data](https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Public-Safety/Motor-Vehicle-Collisions-Crashes/h9gi-nx95)
  + [New York City Vision Zero Geospatial Data](https://vzv.nyc/)

1. New York Department of Transportation Crash Data Viewer <https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/osss/highway/crash-analysis-toolbox> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. New York State Traffic Safety Statistical Repository (TSSR) <https://www.itsmr.org/TSSR/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)