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GLOBAL STAKEHOLDERS UNITE IN BANGKOK TO TACKLE ASIA-PACIFIC ROAD SAFETY CRISIS



The Asia-Pacific region faces a severe road safety crisis, with motorcyclists particularly at risk due to rapid motorization, a high prevalence of two-

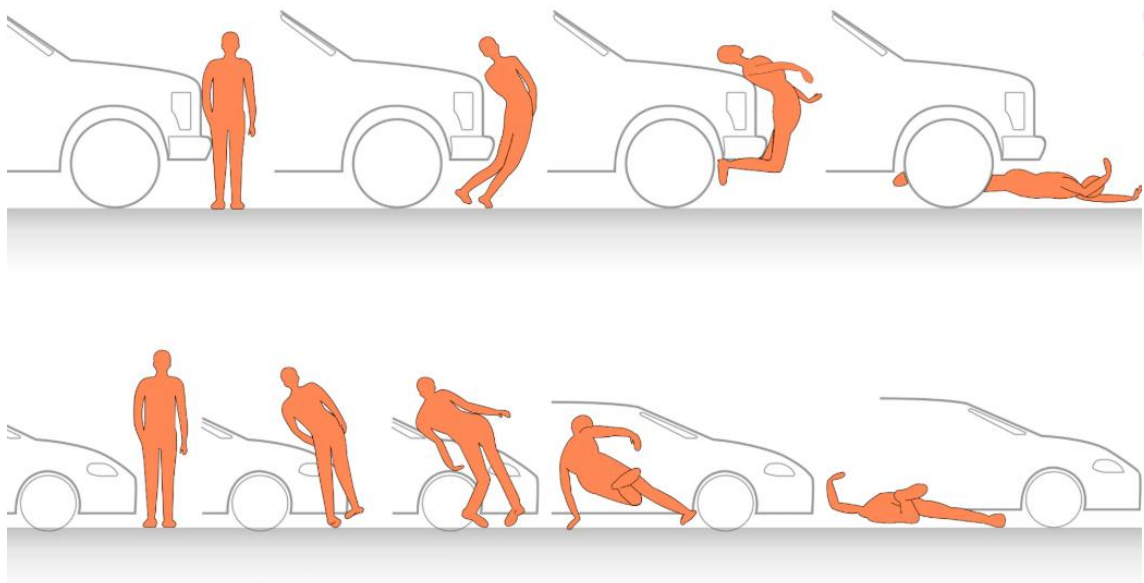
and three-wheelers, and inconsistent implementation of safety standards. In response, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) convened over 260 stakeholders from 45 countries during Road Safety Week in Bangkok (2–5 June). The event highlighted the need for stronger legal frameworks, increased investment, and cooperation between public and private sectors to halve road fatalities and injuries by 2030. Traditional safety measures like helmet use and ABS were discussed alongside innovative technological solutions to address this growing concern.

Throughout the event, multiple UN bodies—including the UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), and the Working Party on Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles (GRVA)—collaborated to promote policy alignment and regulatory innovation. Key moments included the launch of the UNRSF 2024 Annual Report, a high-level dialogue on motorcycle safety, and technology demonstrations showcasing advancements in vehicle automation. Participants emphasized the importance of integrating new technologies and aligning national laws with international standards to create safer transport systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

[More information](#)

LOWER BONNETS FOR A LOWER CASUALTY RATE: NEW GROUND-BREAKING REPORT

Vehicle front-end heights have been steadily increasing in Europe, climbing by approximately 0.5 cm per year—from an average of 76.9 cm in 2010 to 83.8 cm in 2024—driven largely by the surge in SUV and pickup sales. This trend poses serious safety and visibility risks: vehicles with higher bonnets more frequently strike pedestrians above their centre of gravity—often hitting vital organs—resulting in significantly more severe injuries. Belgian crash data indicates a 10 cm increase in bonnet height correlates with a 27% rise in fatal or serious injuries to pedestrians and cyclists. Moreover, tests show drivers of high-bonneted vehicles may not see children directly in front of their vehicles.



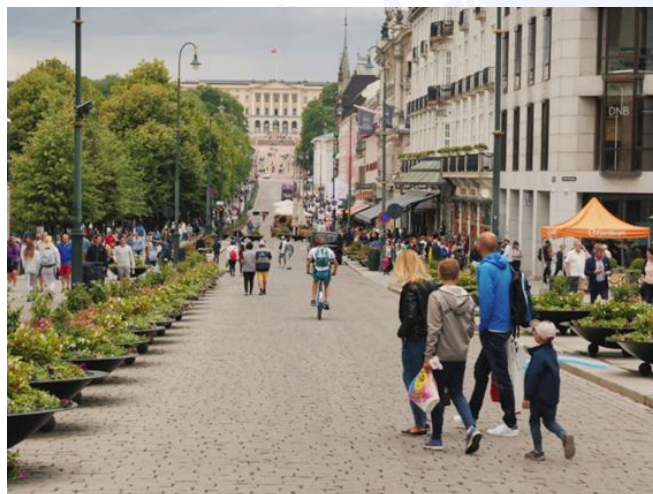
In response, Transport & Environment (T&E) and the Clean Cities Campaign recommend implementing a maximum bonnet height of 85 cm for new passenger vehicles in the EU and UK by 2035, with proposals submitted by July 2027. This threshold would protect at least 95% of adult female pedestrians and many children by ensuring impacts occur below their centre of gravity. Additional measures include adding bonnet height details to vehicle registration documents by 2030, introducing a child visibility test in Euro NCAP by 2026/27, and adjusting tax or parking policies to incentivize smaller, safer vehicles. These changes aim to improve road safety while supporting vehicle electrification and curbing the ongoing “carspreading” trend.

[More information](#)



NORWAY WINS 2025 ETSC PIN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ROAD SAFETY PROGRESS

Norway has been awarded the European Transport Safety Council's 2025 Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) Award for its exceptional progress in improving road safety, marking the country with Europe's lowest mortality rate—just 16 road deaths per million inhabitants in 2024. This recognition highlights Norway's effective "Vision Zero" strategy, comprehensive safety measures across all levels—including robust youth-focused reforms, mandatory crash investigations and autopsies, and innovative local initiatives—alongside its consistent political commitment and ambition.



The broader ETSC PIN Report reveals that the EU27 has seen only a 2% decrease in road deaths in 2024 compared to 2023, and a 12% decline from 2019—well below the target of a 50% reduction by 2030, which would require a 27% decrease by now. While some countries (like Lithuania, Poland, and Slovenia) achieved impressive declines of over 30%, others experienced alarming increases. The report urges EU member states to boost efforts through strategic safety investments, enforcement, and full implementation of a Safe System approach, noting that thousands of preventable fatalities and €60 billion in societal benefits are at stake.

[More information](#)



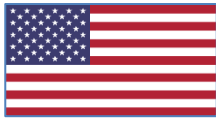
GUERNSEY TO SCRAP BLOOD TEST OPTION IN DRINK-DRIVING CASES



Guernsey will remove the option for drivers to request a blood test instead of a breath test under new drink-driving laws set to take effect later this year. The change aligns with UK law and is expected to speed up court proceedings.

Drivers with 40mg of alcohol per 100ml of breath will be charged. Police say breath-testing is reliable and that the move supports efforts to improve road safety.

[More information](#)



US REGULATORS FAST-TRACK SELF-DRIVING CAR APPROVAL AMID INDUSTRY PRESSURE

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is accelerating its review process of automaker petitions to deploy self-driving vehicles without traditional human controls—such as steering wheels, brake pedals, or mirrors—on public roads. Currently, each manufacturer may run up to 2,500 such vehicles annually, but decision-making has been slowed by lengthy bureaucratic procedures. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy highlighted the shift as a move to “strip red tape,” aiming to improve pace and competitiveness amid growing pressure from companies and concerns over falling behind China.



Several major automakers have previously abandoned their petitions due to delays. The agency is working to simplify approval steps and maintain strict safety standards, requiring manufacturers to prove autonomous vehicles without human controls are at least as safe as conventional ones and serve the public interest.

[More information](#)



NATIONAL ROAD WORKER SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK



In Quebec, the second edition of National Road Worker Safety Awareness Week was held from June 9 to 15, 2025, under the motto “Protecting road workers, I'm on board.”

This themed week focuses on the need to act with civility, mindfulness, and caution in the presence of workers on road works. It also aims to increase users' concern for road workers in general and encourage compliance in the vicinity of roadworks. Road worker safety is a shared responsibility, and it is therefore vital to continue raising awareness, as human lives are at stake. To this end, the Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility used diverse media throughout the week.

[More information](#)



CHINA PROPOSES NEW SAFETY STANDARDS FOR DRIVER-ASSISTANCE SYSTEMS AMID RISING CONCERNS

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has opened a public consultation (through July 4) on proposed national safety standards for advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS). The draft guidelines—co developed with major automakers and tech firms aim to introduce mandatory safety requirements amid fierce competition among automakers promoting these technologies. This move follows a fatal crash in March involving a Chinese electric car: the vehicle caught fire after impacting a roadside pole at high speed, mere seconds after the driver resumed control from its ADAS.



In tandem with this effort, regulators have already prohibited terms such as “smart driving” and “autonomous driving” in vehicle advertising to avoid misleading consumers. This regulatory push reflects growing caution in China's automotive industry—where about 20% of new vehicles feature high-level autonomous capabilities—amid rising safety concerns and unclear legal frameworks around liability. The public feedback period is set to close on July 4, potentially shaping how these systems are standardized and marketed in China.

[More information](#)



MOTOR INDUSTRY STAFF ASSOCIATION URGES MOTORISTS TO AVOID NIGHT DRIVING

The Motor Industry Staff Association (MISA) has urged motorists to avoid night-time driving due to a spike in fatal accidents, noting that crashes at night are significantly more severe than those during the day. Factors such as fatigue, poor visibility, and bad weather greatly increase risk. Recent deadly incidents in South Africa—including a head-on collision in the Eastern Cape and a storm-related crash near Centurion—highlight the urgent need for caution.

MISA and the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) recommend driving during daylight hours whenever possible. MISA's Martlé Keyter emphasized the importance of assessing conditions before traveling to prevent further tragedies. The appeal comes as part of broader efforts to promote safer road habits amid rising road deaths.



[More information](#)