



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** August 4, 2014

**In reply refer to:** H-14-20 through -22

Mr. Ian Grossman  
Vice President  
American Association of Motor  
Vehicle Administrators  
4301 Wilson Blvd., Suite 400  
Arlington, VA 22203

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The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, the NTSB carries out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinates the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On July 15, 2014, the NTSB adopted its report concerning the May 23, 2013, accident in which a span of the Interstate 5 bridge over the Skagit River near Mount Vernon in Washington State collapsed after being struck by an oversize combination vehicle.<sup>1</sup> Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number HAR-14/01.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB issued 18 new recommendations, including 4 to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); 1 to the FHWA, the Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association (SC&RA), and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA); 1 to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; 4 to the Washington State Department of Transportation; 2 to the American Association of State Highway and

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<sup>1</sup> *Collapse of the Interstate 5 Skagit River Bridge, Following a Strike by an Oversize Combination Vehicle, Mount Vernon, Washington, May 23, 2013, HAR-14/01* (Washington, DC: NTSB, 2014).

Transportation Officials (AASHTO); 1 to AASHTO and the CVSA; 1 to the CVSA and the SC&RA; 1 to Nokia HERE, Google Inc., and Rand McNally; and the following 3 recommendations to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators:

H-14-20

Distribute to your members, and encourage the use of, the method developed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in response to Safety Recommendation H-14-18 for replicating all the dimensions of an oversize load for use in pilot/escort vehicle operations.

H-14-21

Institute, with the assistance of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, a model training and certification process that includes reciprocity of certification in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for drivers of pilot/escort vehicles, based on the *Pilot Car Escort Best Practices Guidelines*.

H-14-22

Develop, with assistance from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance and the Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association, training and testing materials that address the challenges and unique operating characteristics of the transportation of oversize loads, and distribute the developed information to state licensing agencies to institute a commercial driver's license endorsement for oversize loads.

These safety recommendations are derived from the NTSB's investigation and are consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Acting Chairman HART and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov). If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,  
Acting Chairman