



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

---

**Date:** July 12, 2012

**In reply refer to:** H-12-23 and -24

The Honorable Victor M. Mendez  
Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Washington, DC 20590

---

On June 5, 2012, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its report concerning a March 12, 2011, accident, in which a motorcoach departed the roadway and collided with a vertical highway signpost, resulting in 15 fatalities and 18 injuries.<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>.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB reiterated previously issued Safety Recommendations H-09-15 and -16, H-10-9, and H-08-13 to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and H-99-47 and -48 to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In addition, the NTSB issued 16 new recommendations, including 7 to the FMCSA; 3 to NHTSA; 3 to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; 1 to the American Bus Association, the National Motorcoach Network, and the United Motorcoach Association; and the following 2 recommendations to the Federal Highway Administration:

### H-12-23

Work with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials to establish performance and selection guidelines for state transportation agencies to use in developing objective warrants for high-performance barriers applicable to new construction and rehabilitation projects where barrier replacement has been determined to be appropriate.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Motorcoach Run-Off-the-Road and Collision With Vertical Highway Signpost, Interstate 95 Southbound, New York City, New York, March 12, 2011*, Highway Accident Report NTSB/HAR-12/01 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2012).

H-12-24

Until barrier testing has been completed, selection guidelines have been developed, and barrier guidance has been updated in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials *Roadside Design Guide*, provide information to state transportation agencies about (1) the unique considerations associated with commercial passenger vehicle “run-off-the-road” accidents involving point hazards, and (2) the associated potential for catastrophic loss of life.

These recommendations are derived from the NTSB’s investigation and are consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Chairman HERSMAN, Vice 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 addressing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement these recommendations. When responding, please refer to Safety Recommendations H-12-23 and -24. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov). If your response includes attachments that exceed 5 megabytes, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. To avoid confusion, please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

Sincerely,

*[Original Signed]*

Deborah A.P. Hersman  
Chairman