



**STATEMENT OF
Ken McLeod, Policy Director, League of American Bicyclists
at Press Conference to Ensure Safety is Advanced in
Any Transportation/Infrastructure Package
July 20, 2021**

Since the last new test was added to the U.S. New Car Assessment Program in 2011, pedestrian fatalities have increased nearly 40% and bicyclist fatalities have increased nearly 25%. While other countries have moved forward to address bicyclist and pedestrian safety, the US has done nothing. Europe, Australasia, China, Japan, and Korea all test for the safety of people biking and walking. Our decades long failure to ensure safety for people outside of vehicles must stop.

I want to call attention to crash avoidance systems, including automatic emergency braking, which has been tested for bicyclist and pedestrian safety in other countries since 2018. Current advertisements hold out the promise of vehicles detecting and stopping for people walking, but testing from AAA shows major deficiencies, like U.S. systems being completely ineffective at night when 75% of pedestrian deaths occur. The House bill would require that those systems are tested for bicyclist and pedestrian safety while the Senate bill would not. By failing to address this important traffic safety solution, the Senate bill leaves Americans less safe and less informed.

The League of American Bicyclists wants the safest vehicles possible for the people in them - and outside of them. Both the House and Senate have recognized the need to make safer hoods and bumpers, modernize headlamps, and conduct an overdue update for the New Car Assessment Program. There are multiple safe, cost-effective, and ready to implement vehicle safety technologies where the only thing missing is Congressional leadership, so now is the time to take the best ideas from both chambers to create the safest vehicles for the American people.

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