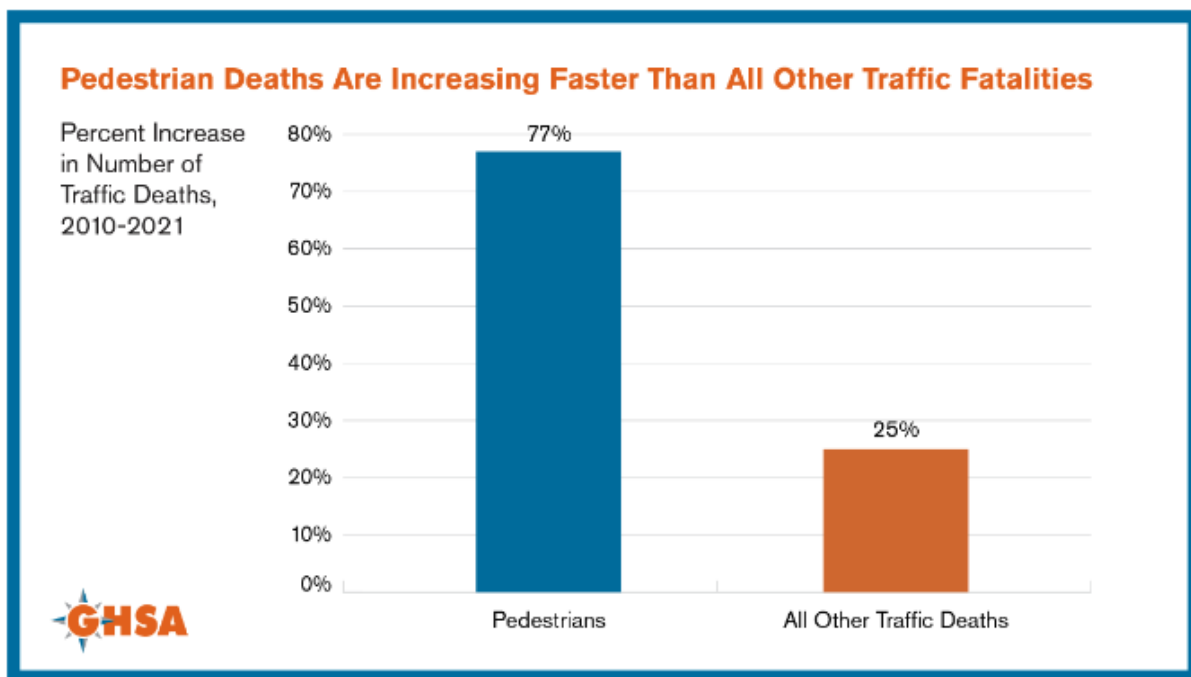


AV Press Conference remarks (as prepared) - July 25, 2023

Hi, I'm Mike McGinn, Executive Director of [America Walks](#), a national nonprofit organization that supports local safe streets advocacy, and works at the national level for safe, accessible and equitable walkable places.

There were 43,000 traffic fatalities in 2021, and that is growing.

Pedestrian deaths are increasing faster than all other traffic fatalities. Between 2010 and 2021 they increased 77%.



<https://www.ghsa.org/resources/Pedestrians23>

Autonomous vehicles are different from other vehicles, but no matter the vehicle, the fundamental difference between the size and mass of a vehicle, and the size of a pedestrian remains the same. A large vehicle moving fast is extremely dangerous. 118 people a day die on our streets.

With those death rates, the idea that autonomous vehicles should be exempt from Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards or regulation is ludicrous. By comparison, the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) recently recalled “Rock’n Play sleepers” that caused 30 deaths. It recalled a weighted blanket that caused two deaths. What is it about vehicles that leads anyone to believe that regulation for safety for our children and families should not matter?

I also hear the argument that autonomous vehicles will be safer. If so, the companies should welcome transparent reporting, regulation and accountability. Finally, safer than our current carnage is a pretty low bar. Arguing that jumping from a fourth story window is safer than jumping from a fifth story window is not particularly compelling. And again, if the companies believe it, they should seek to prove it in an open and accountable manner, not hidden from view.

Therefore, America Walks joins our colleagues in opposition to proposals to exempt autonomous vehicles from regulation.