



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie, Speaker
New York State Assembly
New York State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates), an alliance of consumer, safety, medical, public health and law enforcement groups and insurance companies working together to pass highway and auto safety laws that prevent crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, and contain costs, supports enactment of an intelligent speed assistance (ISA) program for repeat speeding offenders. We urge you and the Assembly to support ISA, a critical and timely safety upgrade.

In 2024, there were an overall estimated 1,105¹ traffic fatalities in New York according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).² Speed is a major contributor to crashes in New York. In 2023, 31 percent of traffic fatalities were speeding related.³ In addition to the physical and emotional burden, traffic crashes exact a financial toll. Traffic crashes cause approximately \$23.6 billion of economic damage to New York annually which is equivalent to a “crash tax” of \$1,214 per resident, according to a 2019 analysis.⁴ When updated for inflation alone, in 2026, costs would equate to about \$30.7 billion.⁵

Active ISA is technology that can identify the speed limit in real time and limit the speed of vehicles exceeding the specified threshold. A recent study on an ISA pilot program for city fleet vehicles in New York City, which involved 500 vehicles and over 2.9 million miles of driving, showed ISA produced a 64 percent reduction in overall time spent speeding (more than 11 miles per hour [mph] over limit), including an 82 percent reduction in time spent speeding on higher-speed roads (50 mph).⁶ Due to the program’s success, it is now being expanded to 2,100 vehicles.⁷

ISA technology is urgently needed because excess speed contributes to both the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes and proves especially dangerous for vulnerable road users (VRUs) such as pedestrians, bicyclists and roadside first responders who lack the protective structure of a vehicle. Small increases in speed cause serious declines in safety. The average risk of death for a pedestrian is 10 percent at an impact speed of 23 mph, 25 percent at 32 mph, and 50 percent at 42 mph.⁸ Vehicle occupants suffer its impacts as well, crash tests showed that modest five to 10 mph increases in speed can have a severe impact on a driver’s risk of injury or death.⁹

We support both S. 4045/A. 2299, which has been incorporated into the Senate budget resolution, to create an ISA program and Governor Hochul’s proposal in Part D of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Executive Budget which authorizes New York City to establish a new ISA pilot program for repeat speeding offenders. While ISA is not in the Assembly budget resolution, we encourage the Assembly to support ISA in the final budget.

We strongly urge you to support ISA. Last year Virginia and Washington became the first states to enact ISA laws, following the District of Columbia doing so in 2024, and many states have pending ISA legislation this year. New York can become a leader in this emerging safety trend and save lives by enacting ISA. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase, President

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- ¹ Traffic Safety Facts: Crash Stats, Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities in 2024, NHTSA, April 2025, DOT HS 813 710, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813710>.
- ² State Traffic Safety Information for New York, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.
- ³ State Traffic Safety Information for New York, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.
- ⁴ The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019, NHTSA, Feb. 2023, DOT HS 813 403, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403>.
- ⁵ CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, January 2019 to January 2026 dollars, available [here](#).
- ⁶ New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. (2024, October 30). DCAS & U.S. DOT Volpe Announce Municipal Speeding Reduction of 64% in New Report on Intelligent Speed Assistance [Press release] available [here](#).
- ⁷ New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. (2024, October 30). DCAS & U.S. DOT Volpe Announce Municipal Speeding Reduction of 64% in New Report on Intelligent Speed Assistance [Press release] available [here](#).
- ⁸ Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Sep. 2011., available at <https://aaafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2011PedestrianRiskVsSpeedReport.pdf>.
- ⁹ Impact of Speeds on Drivers and Vehicles – Results from Crash Tests, AAA Foundation for Safety, Humanetics, and IIHS, Jan. 2021, available at <https://www.iihs.org/api/datastore/document/bibliography/2218>.