



**Safe Kids Worldwide Statement in Support of National Roadway Safety Strategy
From Torine Creppy, president, Safe Kids Worldwide**

Safe Kids Worldwide is proud to support Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Acting NHTSA Administrator Steven Cliff, and the Department of Transportation (DOT) in their effort to make our transportation system safe for all people through the first-ever [National Roadway Safety Strategy \(NRSS\)](#).

Announced today at an event outside the DOT, the NRSS comes at a critical time in our nation. Over the past two years, traffic crashes and injuries have risen dramatically. Early estimates for the first six months of 2021 show an 18.4% increase in deaths. This is the largest increase since 2006.

At Safe Kids Worldwide, we value the safety of *ALL* children and we are already working across the country to make high-risk and underserved communities a top priority. Our comprehensive Road Safety Road Map focuses on the following four key areas that are in line with the core strategy of the NRSS:

- **Updating Child Passenger Safety Laws to Meet Recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics**
- **Ensuring All Children Equally Protected by Building a Strong CPS Program in Underserved Communities**
- **Promoting Pedestrian & Bike Safety Measures in School Zones and Beyond**
- **Utilizing Current and Future Automotive Technologies to Prevent Childhood Injuries and Death**

In these ways, the NRSS truly complements our vision to provide equitable protection to all children. It provides a comprehensive approach to stopping traffic deaths and injuries, including those among our most vulnerable population, our children. By adopting the Safe Systems approach, the DOT is committing to a wholistic approach toward reducing traffic deaths and injuries.

Within the Safe Systems approach, Safe Kids Worldwide would especially like to commend the DOT for prioritizing the areas of equity and climate, pedestrian safety and bicycle safety, which also are priority areas for Safe Kids. The approach increases investment in passive prevention strategies that will support our efforts in education and environmental modification projects.

Safe Kids Worldwide looks forward to working with Secretary Buttigieg, the DOT, and other partners to emphasize equity and children as part of the NRSS. This important new initiative creates a national framework to prevent injuries, save lives, and make a meaningful difference for families no matter where they live.