



February 5, 2009

Letter to the Editor
USA TODAY / USATODAY.com
7950 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, VA 22108-0605

RE: February 5, 2009 article: "Traffic Deaths Down in 42 states"

The fact that traffic deaths have declined in 42 states last year is truly good news; however, USA Today's Feb. 5 article failed to mention the countless lifesaving roadway safety features that are already in place across the country. These too should be rightfully credited for their contributing role in the nationwide decline in fatalities. Roadway safety items include pavement markings, signs, traffic control devices, guardrail, median barrier, rumble strips and other roadside safety features that are routinely taken for granted. In addition, thousands of men and women maintain and upgrade our roadways in work zones from coast to coast. These individuals are also directly responsible for making our roadways safer and should not be overlooked either. By acknowledging these factors, in addition to the attention that is regularly given to in-vehicle safety features, lower miles travelled and other factors, the public will understand that the safest automobiles built today will not save lives if the roadway itself is an unsafe and dangerous hazard.

Very truly yours,

James S. Baron
Director of Communications
ATSSA