

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS JOINS ROADWAY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY COALITION

Washington, DC. – The Roadway Infrastructure Safety Coalition (RISC) recently welcomed the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) to its coalition as its newest member. RISC was created to work to reduce deaths on America’s roadways by improving roadway safety infrastructure through the federal legislative, regulatory and budgetary process. Evidence suggests that roadway infrastructure plays a significant role in as much as one third of the deaths that occur annually.

RISC is currently composed of the following organizations all committed to reducing deaths on our nation’s roadways through investing in roadway safety infrastructure: the American Highway Users Alliance (Highway Users), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Engineers (NACE).

NADO adds a new perspective to the coalition through its focus on rural development and improving the quality of life in America’s local communities. Transportation and rural roadway safety is a concern for local communities throughout the nation.

RISC is particularly concerned with improving safety on America’s High Risk Rural Roads. These roads, which witness 35% of the vehicle miles traveled yet experience 54% of the nation’s fatal accidents, are in desperate need of safety improvements. NADO’s Executive Director Matthew Chase reiterated their organization’s concerns with high risk rural roads by stating, “For a modest federal investment each year, we could be saving countless lives and reducing serious injuries on two-lane rural roads through low-cost, strategic investments. NADO and its members are very pleased to join RISC in offering common sense solutions to this emotionally, economically and socially important issue of roadway safety.”

Throughout the 111th Congress, RISC hopes to shine a light on the need to invest in the safety of the roadway itself. The reauthorization of the “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU),” which is scheduled to be completed in 2009, will be a key focus of the coalition.

Every year, over 40,000 people die on America’s roadways. This is not simply a number; it represents the death of someone’s loved one. RISC will do everything in its power to raise awareness concerning the need to focus on roadway safety and to invest the funds necessary to make everyone’s journey in the future a safer one.

NADO is a welcome addition to RISC and will significantly help the Coalition expand and grow its effectiveness.

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