



August 3, 2022

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of the New York State Safe Streets Coalition, thank you for signing S1078A/A5084 into law, requiring instruction in pedestrian and bicyclist safety as part of the Department of Motor Vehicles' pre-licensing course. This measure will ensure prospective drivers are fully aware of the danger that operating large, multi-ton vehicles poses to pedestrians, bike riders, and other vulnerable people.

This action comes amid a rise in traffic fatalities nationwide and in New York State. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 2020 had the highest number of traffic fatalities nationwide since 2007, and a recent National Safety Council report estimated 21 percent more motor vehicle fatalities in New York State in 2021 compared to 2019.

With traffic violence surging, it is clear that more action must be taken to protect all New Yorkers on our streets. To address this crisis, we urge you to immediately sign into law S02021/A01007 and S3897/A8936.

[Statewide Speed Limits](#) (S02021/A01007) would allow towns, cities, and villages across New York State to reduce their speed limits to 25 mph. Speed kills: With each one mph increase in speed, there's nearly a three percent increase in the mortality rate. This measure empowers municipalities to set lower speed limits based on their needs. Localities are eager to enact local legislation to fix this long-standing issue; we encourage you to sign this bill soon so that municipalities that have passed resolutions calling for lower speed limits like Ithaca and [Buffalo](#), and [Schenectady](#) can make their roads safer without any delay.

[Complete Streets Funding](#) (S3897/A8936) incentivizes municipalities to implement complete street features such as sidewalks, bike lanes, raised crosswalks, and other traffic calming measures by increasing the state funding match from 80% to 87.5%. When it comes to preventing crashes, designing streets to protect everyone who uses the road — from pedestrians to bike riders to drivers — is key. Given New York's recent federal infrastructure funding for projects such as these, we are confident that the state has significant funding to enact and implement this bill immediately.

By signing these two measures into law, the Governor will help save lives in every corner of the state and position New York as a national leader on safe streets. Our coalition of more than 100 organizations from across the state will continue to fight to pass the full package of life-saving bills in the [Crash Victim Rights and Safety Act](#), and we look forward to working with you in this endeavor.



Sincerely,

The New York State Safe Streets Coalition

*Steering Committee members:*

Families for Safe Streets

Albany Bicycle Coalition

Bike Walk Tomkins

GObike Buffalo

National Safety Council

New York Bicycling Coalition

Open Plans

Parks & Trails NY

Reconnect Rochester

Rochester Bicycling Club

Slow Roll Syracuse

Transportation Alternatives

Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Walkable Albany