



SAFE TRAVELS NC

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Demand Safe

We're about speaking out and taking action. How else do things change?

NCAST's 2026 Sweethearts of Safety award winners all worked last year to make our roads safer, and you'll hear more about them below.

Also in this month's edition: A cute deer, some road math, and do you know what to do if you drift off the road?

We ♥ These People



The NC Alliance for Safe Transportation honored safety advocates last month at our third annual Sweethearts of Safety event.

What a great crowd! All three Triangle news stations showed up with cameras. Congrats to the winners, thanks to all attendees, and [special thanks to our sponsors!](#)

This year's awards focused on policy and communication. We recognized six state legislators for their work advancing reasonable safety legislation, and for pushing back against changes in the wrong direction.

That includes lawmakers who brokered a compromise to avoid elimination of the duration between stages in [the state's graduated drivers license program](#), going

from 12 months, to six, and raising it up to nine - but with fewer trips required to a DMV location.

Among those involved: State Rep. Donnie Loftis.

“I’m just honored that work was recognized,” Loftis said. “It was important for me to share my conscience, and to say I want to protect kids who don’t know how to protect themselves yet.”

[READ MORE](#)

Critter Crossing



Watch this white-tailed deer use a culvert to cross under Interstate 26 in western North Carolina.

THAT is how it should work, how it does work, and how it can work in more places along our highways. Give animals a place for safe passage – they stay safe, and so do we. Did you know that the state logs more than 21,000 animal-related crashes a year?

That's why the Safe Passage coalition champions new infrastructure in Western North Carolina.

Sometimes that's a new or improved culvert. Sometimes it's fencing to funnel animals to an existing culvert or underpass. Sometimes it's a platform added to the culvert so animals that don't like wet feet use it.

Among many other things, Safe Passage places trail cameras at key locations to show where crossings are needed, and where they're working.

You can help! Take the Safe Passage pledge today, and spread the word: Animal crossings work.

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Ask A Trooper



“What should I do if I drift off the road?”

This month’s question comes from Trey in Raleigh. Got a question? Ask it in a short video and send it [here](#).

SEE VIDEO

Stay Safe ASAP



This is Agricultural Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) week - a time to talk about safety and health issues facing American farmers.

Only some of that is transportation related - but that's where we can all help farmers.

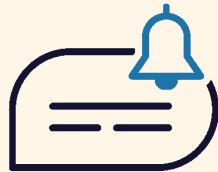
Planting season is here. If you see a tractor or combine on the road
SLOW DOWN!

It literally costs 2 minutes to cut your speed from 65 mph to 20 mph for 1 mile. We did the math.

If you're a farmer, the NC Farm Bureau has [a wealth of safety information online](#). Take it easy in the coming heat. Stay hydrated to stay focused. Use three points of contact getting in and out of your tractor and other large vehicles.

"Move with purpose" is one of this year's ASAP themes, and we think that's good advice on the farm AND behind the wheel.

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In the News

[As teen crash deaths climb, NC students push safe driving](#)

- NC Health News

[NC DMV: No more appointments 3 months in advance](#)

- News & Observer

[Audit: North Carolina DOT stays within spending plan](#)

- The Center Square

[Drivers pass barricades, have to be rescued in the snow](#)

- The Charlotte Observer

[Greensboro seeks community input on new safety plan](#)

- WFDD

[Rep. Ross joins Raleigh mom's safety crusade with new truck bill](#)

- News & Observer

Demand Safe



Drivers aren't the only ones with responsibility, and passengers make up almost 25% of vehicle deaths.

If you're a passenger, you have jobs:

- Speak up if the driver is speeding, distracted or acting unsafe
- Keep noise and distractions to a minimum
- Wear your seat belt
- Offer to handle navigation or messages

Risks go up when young people are together: Fatality rates rise 51% when a teen driver has only teen passengers in the vehicle, according to AAA.

Be Safe. Stay Safe. DEMAND Safe.

One Last Thing...

How About Roundabouts?



Modern roundabouts, as the NC Department of Transportation noted in a [recent social media post](#), have lots of safety benefits.

The department did a study in 2020 after installing roundabouts **at 13 intersections (all on roads with 55 mph speed limits)** and found:

- Total crashes went down 41%
- Fatal and injury crashes went down 79%
- Frontal-impact crashes went down 62%

Just remember: the driver in the roundabout has the right of way!



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Questions– including those relating to privacy and the protection of your personal information– should be sent to info@safetravelstnc.org

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