

NHTSA's Policy on Racial Profiling

Increasing safety belt use among African Americans can prevent thousands of deaths and injuries each year. But getting people who don't wear their belts to change their behavior takes more than a restatement of this fact. In the last few years, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has demonstrated that highly publicized belt enforcement can increase belt use – even among those who never buckled up before. Bottom line – the fear of getting a ticket makes people “click it.” However, the issue of increased traffic enforcement can also create serious unease among those who are concerned with racial profiling or “Driving While Black.”

In fact, many African American communities are extremely distrustful of providing law enforcement officials with what could be construed as a legal excuse for rogue behaviors and practices.

NHTSA is committed to working with law enforcement to identify ways to enforce the law for the safety and protection of all residents, while ensuring the right to be treated fairly, without regard to race, ethnicity, or any other physical characteristics. NHTSA is also committed to improving cooperation between African American communities and the public safety personnel to eliminate profile-based enforcement.