



# Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764  
Telephone 217/782-5597

September 4, 2018

RE: Traffic Safety Summit

Dear Traffic Safety Partner:

The Illinois Department of Transportation would like your assistance addressing a growing safety problem – traffic fatalities. Last year, 1,090 people died in traffic crashes in Illinois, after several years of decline. There are a variety of causes. We know that 94 percent of crashes are attributed to human error, with distracted driving and excessive speed among the riskiest behaviors contributing to crash severity.

We also know that traffic deaths are a nationwide problem. These trends exist across the country with a few notable exceptions. A handful of states, including the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and its partners, have adopted an approach to traffic safety that involves grassroots analysis, strong collaboration across state and local agencies, and a public and private safety culture that has resulted in a 40 percent reduction in fatalities since 2001.

On Tuesday, October 30, we would like you to join us in Springfield to hear about Minnesota's "Toward Zero Deaths" program and weigh in on how we can develop a successful program for Illinois. We will also hear from safety professionals about the complexities associated with distracted driving and work with you to develop a plan to combat this serious issue.

Please visit this link below and register for this important event: [www.idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/stay-connected/events/traffic-safety-summit-2018](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/stay-connected/events/traffic-safety-summit-2018). You will also find a draft agenda and room block information. You will help shape our strategy to save lives in Illinois. If you have any questions please contact Michael Vanderhoof, Planning Services Section Chief at 217-782-8080.

The road to zero fatalities begins with partnerships. We need your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall S. Blankenhorn".

Randall S. Blankenhorn  
Secretary

Attachments