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ALASKA TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT TO CONVENE IN ANCHORAGE

Department of Transportation Enlists Support, Perspective at Industry-Diverse Conference

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Alaska Highway Safety Office (AHSO) is convening a statewide Traffic Safety Summit for the first time in over a decade. AHSO has invited industry leaders from civil and industrial engineering, health care, sociology, law enforcement, government, media, marketing, and more in an event held at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, January 9-10. The summit will focus on furthering AHSO's goal of eliminating fatalities and serious injuries caused by crashes.

The two-day summit agenda includes topics ranging from structural (e.g., roundabouts) to behavioral. Recognizing the complexity and breadth of factors that affect road safety—including factors unique to Alaska, such as icy roads—the AHSO has structured their summit to invite diverse perspectives representing the "Four Es" of highway safety: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Response. The goal of the summit is to share challenges and solutions to ensure our roadways are safe and Alaskans are free from the harms of unsafe driving behavior.

"We have been fortunate to have an engaged, committed group of professionals working toward a common goal: eliminating injuries and deaths on Alaska's roadways. This is a proud moment for all of us, as the summit affirms our united commitment to work together to achieve safe roads and safe behavior for all Alaskans," said Tammy Kramer, manager of the Alaska Highway Safety Office.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is a branch of state government overseeing approximately 5,700 miles of highway, in addition to Alaska's ferries, airports, and public facilities. The DOT&PF Alaska Highway Safety Office's mission is to "enhance the health and well being of Alaska's people through programs aimed at saving lives and preventing injuries on Alaska's highways." AHSO coordinates highway safety programming focused on public outreach and education, enforcement, promotion of new safety technology, integration of public health strategies, collaboration with safety and private sector organizations and cooperation with state and local governments. AHSO administers federal funding to appropriate projects through a grant awarding process. The AHSO staff works with its partners in communities to develop strong projects with the message of Highway Safety for all Alaskans. We are also responsible for providing technical assistance to grantees and ensuring compliance with federal program regulations and guidelines. Learn more about the AHSO, as well as their many programs, at <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/hwysafety/index.shtml>. For more information about the Traffic Safety Summit, visit <http://aktrafficsafety.com/>.

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