



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**KELLY A. AYOTTE**  
Governor

March 21, 2025

Dear Task Force Member,

New Hampshire faces a pressing highway safety crisis. In 2024 alone, 135 lives were lost in accidents that could have been prevented—a toll that brings into sharp focus the human cost of our current road safety shortcomings. Many of these were alcohol or drug related. These tragedies are not merely statistics; each represents a family devastated and a community altered forever.

This disturbing pattern calls for a deep reassessment of our existing measures and a commitment to uncover the systemic issues that have allowed such losses to occur. Our roadways are the lifelines of our state, and every preventable loss is a clear signal that immediate and comprehensive action is required.

To address this critical issue, I have asked Department of Safety Commissioner Robert Quinn and Attorney General John Formella, to work with my office and Executive Councilor John Stephen in establishing a Highway Safety Task Force. We would like your participation in the Task Force. This Task Force will be charged with:

- **Conducting a Comprehensive Analysis:** Review accident reports and traffic data to identify trends, risk factors, and any gaps in our current safety measures.
- **Evaluating Existing Policies:** Assessing our current laws, rules, enforcement practices, and roadway conditions to determine their effectiveness and pinpoint areas where improvement is needed.
- **Engaging with Stakeholders:** Collaborating with local and state authorities, road safety experts, and community representatives to gather a diverse range of insights.
- **Developing Strategic Recommendations:** Proposing effective strategies and actionable plans—ranging from legislation, enhanced enforcement protocols, advanced training and any targeted infrastructure improvements—that will significantly boost highway safety.

The initial meeting of the Task Force will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm at the Department of Safety 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room at 33 Hazen Drive in Concord. I am asking the Task Force to present me with an initial report outlining its preliminary findings and key areas for further investigation by **July 31, 2025**. A comprehensive final report, complete with detailed recommendations and an actionable plan, should be submitted by **October 31, 2025**.

Your expertise and commitment are critical to this endeavor, and I appreciate your participation in the Task Force as well as your dedication to safeguarding the lives of New Hampshire's citizens and visitors. Together, we will work to transform our highways into safer passageways for all.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Ayotte  
Governor