

NC TRAFFIC SAFETY CONFERENCE & EXPO

Achieving Vision Zero

June 2–4, 2026

Pre-Conference Workshops June 1

Benton Convention Center
Winston-Salem, N.C.



Welcome to the 2026 NC Traffic Safety Conference & Expo!

This biennial Traffic Safety Conference is a wonderful time for our diverse community partners to gather in person to hear from national, state and locally recognized traffic safety leaders. Each of these experts will help us understand new perspectives of transportation safety and expand our knowledge of ways to reduce and eliminate crashes.

We will learn about what other towns, counties and even states are doing to reduce roadway deaths, and we will celebrate past and present successes. We will also learn new approaches to help us achieve our ultimate vision of zero traffic deaths on N.C. roadways.

We are in a critical time for traffic safety. After years of stark increases in traffic fatalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 epidemic of 2020–2021, we are finally seeing some significant decreases in fatalities in N.C. roadways. But challenges remain. Crash numbers remain unacceptably high, and experienced professionals continue leaving the field faster than they can be replaced. Even so, challenging times bring new opportunities, and during this conference, those opportunities will shine brightly. We will also recognize and celebrate significant victories since our last conference.

Achieving Vision Zero will require adopting and cultivating innovative partnerships, technologies and approaches. That's why we urge you to visit our exhibitors during this conference. These state and national vendors showcase new technologies and cutting-edge resources to help address traffic safety concerns in your community.

On behalf of the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program, the Conference Planning Committee and myself, we encourage you to take advantage of all to see all that Winston-Salem, N.C. has to offer.

Please ask questions, make new contacts and share ideas with your colleagues. We hope you enjoy your time in Winston-Salem and, once again, welcome to the 2026 Traffic Safety Conference & Expo.

Sincerely,

Mark Ezzell, Director

North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program



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Download the Conference App
(Coming Soon)

Convention Center & General Information

Parking

Parking information coming soon.

Wifi Access

Free public Wi-Fi is available throughout the Benton Convention Center. Speakers and Exhibitors who need improved connectivity may contact the conference Help Desk in the main lobby for assistance.

Restrooms

Restrooms on the Main Floor of the Benton Convention Center are located in the Winston Foyer near the main entrance and in the Salem Foyer next to the skywalk entrance.

Dress Code

The conference dress code is business casual. Typically, attendees wear uniforms/professional dress of their respective organizations for the opening and closing sessions.

Convention Center Map

The following page shows the areas of the Benton Convention Center that will be used to host the NC Traffic Safety Conference & Expo.

Lost & Found

To inquire about lost and found items, please visit the Help Desk located near the main entrance or contact the Benton Convention Center at 336-397-7777.

[More Information about the Benton Convention Center](#)

Stay Informed

Sign up for email announcements about future traffic safety training, webinars, and conferences at email.nctrfficsafetyconference.org



Benton Convention Center Map

301 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, NC



Conference Schedule at a Glance

Monday, June 1, 2026

7:00AM–5:00PM	Registration Open	Salem Foyer
8:00AM–5:00PM	Exhibitor Move-in	Winston Ballroom
8:00AM–5:00PM	Pre-Conference Sessions ¹	Meeting Rooms
8:00AM–12:00PM	<i>Death Notification Victim Sensitivity</i>	Salem 1A
8:00AM–12:00PM	<i>Large Truck & Bus Enforcement</i>	Salem 1CB
8:00AM–12:00PM	<i>Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Refresher Training</i>	Winston 1A
9:00AM–4:30PM	<i>Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Workshop</i>	Winston 1CB
1:00PM–5:00PM	<i>Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) Refresher Training</i>	Winston 1A
1:00PM–5:00PM	<i>Highs in Disguise: Emerging Drug Trends and Impairment Risks in Everyday Items</i>	Salem 1A
1:00PM–5:00PM	<i>Railroad Investigation Safety Course & Face to Face for Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers</i> ...	Salem 1CB

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

7:00AM–5:00PM	Registration Open	Salem Foyer
7:00AM–8:00AM	Breakfast & Networking with Exhibitors	Winston Ballroom
8:00AM–9:30AM	Opening Plenary Session	Salem Ballroom
9:30AM–9:45AM	Break	
9:45AM–11:00AM	Session Block 1	Meeting Rooms
	<i>Age-Friendly Roads: Law Enforcement Guide to Promoting Driver Safety</i>	Salem 1A
	<i>Gas Station Pharmacology: What Today's Drivers Are Using and Why It Matters</i>	Winston 1CB
	<i>Misdemeanor... Murder? Proving What You Didn't See Happen</i>	Salem 1CB
	<i>Quick Wins with Quick Builds: Advancing Vision Zero Through Pilot and Demonstration Projects</i>	Winston 1A
11:00AM–11:30AM	Door Prizes & Break with Exhibitors	Winston Ballroom
11:30AM–12:30PM	Networking Lunch	Salem Ballroom
12:30PM–12:45PM	Break	
12:45PM–2:00PM	Session Block 2	Meeting Rooms
	<i>From Handbook to Highway: Applying N.C. Driving Laws to Protect Vulnerable Road Users</i>	Winston 1CB
	<i>Law Enforcement Traffic Stop Safety: Saving Lives Together</i>	Salem 1A
	<i>NC CRIS: Moving Into the Future</i>	Salem 1CB
	<i>The Intersection of Psychology & Road Safety: The Impact of Emotional Regulation & Mental Health on Driver Decision-Making</i>	Winston 1A
2:00PM–2:30PM	Door Prizes & Break with Exhibitors	Winston Ballroom
2:30PM–3:45PM	Session Block 3	Meeting Rooms
	<i>Car Seat Basics for Law Enforcement</i>	Salem 1CB
	<i>Digital Evidence in Crash Reconstruction</i>	Winston 1CB
	<i>Open Streets: Re-imagining Streets as Public Spaces for Everyone</i>	Salem 1A
	<i>Reporting Crashes: How to Provide the Right Information and Understand Who Uses It</i>	Winston 1A
3:45PM–4:00PM	Break	
4:00PM–5:00PM	Session Block 4	Meeting Rooms
	<i>A Look Behind the Magic Curtain: Getting to Know the GHSP STEP Reporting System and Website</i>	Salem 1A
	<i>Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC)</i>	Winston 1A
	<i>Rethinking Impaired Driving: Oral Fluid Screening</i>	Winston 1CB
	<i>Tech Solutions for Slowing Speeds</i>	Salem 1CB
5:15PM–5:45PM	Special Feature Film: The Journey	Winston 1A

¹ Prior registration required for Pre-Conference Sessions.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

7:30AM–5:00PM	Registration Open	Salem Foyer
7:30AM–8:30AM	Breakfast & Networking with Exhibitors	Winston Ballroom
8:30AM–9:45AM	Session Block 5	Meeting Rooms
	<i>Big Rigs, Big Risk: How Enforcement of Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) & Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs) Saves Lives</i>	Salem 1A
	<i>Decoding the Drive: Engineers Explain Signals, Speed Limits, and Road Safety Treatments for the Rest of Us</i>	Winston 1CB
	<i>Traffic Stops & Crash Response for People with Special Needs</i>	Salem 1CB
	<i>Vision Zero & Law Enforcement</i>	Winston 1A
9:45AM–10:00AM	Break	
10:00AM–11:15AM	Session Block 6	Meeting Rooms
	<i>Best Practices for Death Notifications and Fatal Crash Case Management: Part 1</i>	Salem 1CB
	<i>Combating Street Takeovers Through Direct Enforcement and Investigations</i>	Winston 1CB
	<i>Data-Driven Strategies: From Hospital Records to Safety Action Plans</i>	Salem 1A
	<i>Spotting the Fakes: Tactical Approaches to Enforcing Temporary License Plate Fraud</i>	Winston 1A
11:15AM–11:30AM	Break	
11:30AM–1:00PM	Traffic Safety Awards Lunch	Salem Ballroom
1:00PM–1:15PM	Break	
1:15PM–2:30PM	Session Block 7	Meeting Rooms
	<i>Building Strong Partnerships to Move Vision Zero from Planning to Implementation</i>	Winston 1A
	<i>Steering Toward Safety: Best Practices for Teen Driver Engagement</i>	Salem 1CB
	<i>The Blood Counts: Preparing the DWI Search Warrant</i>	Winston 1CB
	<i>Understanding the Latest Technology Keeping Roads Safe</i>	Salem 1A
2:30PM–3:00PM	Door Prizes & Break with Exhibitors	Winston Ballroom
3:00PM–4:15PM	Session Block 8	Meeting Rooms
	<i>Aerial Crash Examination Drone (ACED)</i>	Winston 1CB
	<i>Beyond the DWI: Understanding Alcohol, Impairment, and Safer Road Use</i>	Winston 1A
	<i>HGN or Something Else: The Effects of Kratom, Gabapentin, and High-Potency Cannabis on Eye Movements</i>	Salem 1CB
	<i>Remember Your "Why." Do Your Job</i>	Salem 1A
4:15PM–5:00PM	Traffic Safety Trivia Game and Refreshments with Exhibitors	Winston Ballroom

Thursday, June 4, 2026

7:30AM–10:00AM	Registration Open	Salem Foyer
7:30AM–8:30AM	Breakfast & Networking with Exhibitors	Winston Ballroom
8:30AM–9:45AM	Session Block 9	Meeting Rooms
	<i>Active Transportation for All: Strategies in Pedestrian and Bicycle Education</i>	Winston 1A
	<i>Best Practices for Death Notifications and Fatal Crash Case Management: Part 2</i>	Salem 1CB
	<i>Multiplying Danger: What Every Officer Must Know About Opiate Potentiation</i>	Salem 1A
9:45AM–10:00AM	Break	
10:00AM–11:15AM	Session Block 10	Meeting Rooms
	<i>Driving the Standard: Shaping Safety Culture from the Inside Out</i>	Salem 1CB
	<i>Sovereign Citizens</i>	Winston 1CB
11:15AM–11:30AM	Break	
11:30AM–12:00PM	Closing Session	Salem Ballroom

Session Descriptions

Monday, June 1, 2026

8:00AM – 5:00PM

Pre-Conference Sessions

► **Note that all Pre-Conference Sessions require pre-registration.**

8:00AM - 12:00PM ► **Salem 1A**

Death Notification Victim Sensitivity

MADD's Death Notification Victim Sensitivity training is a facilitated conversation about death notifications pulling from MADD's 45 years of experience working with victims/survivors.

Performance Objectives:

- Enhance awareness of the emotional hazards of crisis work
- Explore essential needs of the bereaved
- Discuss strategies for delivering a compassionate and thorough death notification

Objectives are met through a combination of instruction, group discussion, group review of video clips where positive and negative practices are shown, and testimonial from a victim.

Topics include Stress and the Notifier, Aftermath of Homicide/Traumatic Death, and Practices for Proper Death Notification.

Presented by

Steven Burritt

8:00AM - 12:00PM ► **Salem 1CB**

Large Truck & Bus Enforcement

To address the reluctance of law enforcement officers to conduct large truck or motor coach stops, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has created the Large Truck and Bus Traffic Enforcement Training program. This course is designed to enhance officers' knowledge about the dangers of unsafe driving by large trucks and buses. Topics include methods to:

- Provide for safe, effective commercial vehicle traffic stops;
- Help get dangerous commercial drivers off the road;
- Help detect and deter other serious crimes;
- Reduce serious traffic violations; and
- Prevent hazardous cargo spills and crash-related traffic congestion that endanger your community and divert law enforcement from critical responsibilities.

Presented by

Kendell Jackson

8:00AM - 12:00PM **Winston 1A**

Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Refresher Training

What better way to start the day than talking about HGN! Let's spend a few hours talking about DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing. This session will review the three phases of DWI Detection and review the three SFSTs. We'll talk about some common challenges and defenses to DWI to keep us on the right track to detect impaired drivers.

Prerequisite: *Prior completion of the 24-hour SFST training course is required for this refresher.*

Presented by
Eric Sweden

9:00AM - 4:30PM **Winston 1CB**

Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Workshop

Attendees will be able to earn all 6 CEUs needed for recertification. Presentations will be broken down into four separate topics (1.5 CEUs each) that will include hands-on practice with car seats and other topics to be determined.

Presented by
UNC Highway Safety Research Center & Safe Kids NC

1:00PM - 5:00PM **Winston 1A**

Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) Refresher Training

If it's been a bit since you last took ARIDE, these dynamic four hours will review important concepts for the ever increasing problem of drug impaired drivers. Start the Traffic Safety Conference out right and refresh your skills here!

Prerequisite: *Prior completion of the 16-hour ARIDE training course is required for this refresher.*

Presented by
Joshua Legan

1:00PM - 5:00PM **Salem 1A**

Highs in Disguise: Emerging Drug Trends and Impairment Risks in Everyday Items

Join us to uncover the truth behind today's most insidious substances, from kratom's hidden super-potent alkaloid to lethal fentanyl analogs lurking in "prescription" pills, and the wild world of new cannabinoids (Delta 8, Delta 10, HHC) flooding vape shops and headshops. You'll learn how everyday objects like pill presses in a closet, a "harmless" vape cartridge, or a bag of mushrooms can turn deadly, and exactly what Narcan can (and can't) do when seconds count. We'll also dive into hemp products that aren't as innocent as they seem, plus synthetic benzos, gabapentin combos, and the next wave of mushroom-derived psychedelics. Discover how vape devices mask illicit opioids and designer cannabinoids, arming you with practical field tactics to intercept these threats and protect your safety. Continuous vigilance and practical field tactics are the greatest weapons against today's evolving substance landscape. Don't miss this chance to stay one step ahead.

Presented by
Kenny Benfield

1:00PM - 5:00PM **Salem 1CB**

Railroad Investigation Safety Course

Approximately every three hours a train collision occurs in the United States often requiring the assistance of first responders at the scene of an incident. The collision scene may be complex and consist of a variety of safety concerns for first responders. The Railroad Investigation and Safety Course provides first responders with critical information allowing them to effectively respond to and safely investigate incidents involving the railroad. Attendees will learn personal safety techniques while they are investigating a grade crossing collision or trespasser incident, in addition to maintaining on-scene safety unique to the railroad environment.

Face to Face for Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers

Operation Lifesaver has a network of volunteers across the nation who assist states in providing rail safety information to communities, schools, groups, and businesses. The process has three steps: application, online training and Face-to-Face training. At completion, applicants are Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers and capable of representing the organization.

Prerequisite: Attendees will be required to complete the application and online training before attending this session. For more information, visit oli.org/safety-near-trains/volunteer

Presented by

Margaret Cannell, Bradley Meyers

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

7:00AM – 8:00AM

Breakfast and Networking with Exhibitors

Winston Ballroom

8:00AM – 9:30AM

Opening Plenary Session

Salem Ballroom

Presentation of Colors by:

Winston-Salem Police Department Honor Guard

National Anthem performed by:

Officer Fleurette "Flo" Gregory-Phillips, Winston-Salem Police Department

Invocation by:

Brian "Bubba" Whitehurst, Orange County Sheriff's Office

Presenters:

Mark Ezzell, North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program

Mayor Allen Joines, City of Winston-Salem

Jason Swaim, City of Winston-Salem

Daniel Johnson, North Carolina Department of Transportation

Travis Fain, Fain Communications

Tracy Russ, Institute for Transportation Research and Education

Dr. Cheryl Leonard, North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program

9:30AM – 9:45AM**Break****9:45AM – 11:00AM****Session Block 1****9:45AM - 11:00AM** **Salem 1A**

Age-Friendly Roads: Law Enforcement Guide to Promoting Driver Safety

As the population ages, more drivers are staying on the road well into their 80s and beyond. While driving supports independence and social connection, age-related changes and/or medical conditions can affect safety. Thus, it is important that state agencies and law enforcement (LE) personnel are equipped to address medically-at-risk drivers. Our LE cue card, developed by the NC Coalition of Older Adult Transportation, is a 9-item screening tool to assess whether a driver is cognitively impaired. Officers can utilize this card in real-time when evaluating if the driver is able to operate their vehicle safely. It also includes next steps based on the results of the assessment, information on driver referrals, and some key resources for the driver, so they can better navigate their current and future transportation needs. We will discuss older driver safety considerations, how to use the card, implementation strategies, and the potential benefits to agencies across the state.

Presented by

Anne Dickerson, Shannen Johnson, Kristel Robison

9:45AM - 11:00AM **Winston 1CB**

Gas Station Pharmacology: What Today's Drivers Are Using and Why It Matters

Unregulated "gas station drugs" like kratom, 7-hydroxy-mitragynine, Amanita muscaria products, and other natural and synthetic smoke-shop blends are creating a new and dangerous impairment landscape on our roadways. Marketed as legal, natural, or harmless, these substances can produce sedation, dissociation, slowed reaction time, agitation, or hallucinations, effects that directly compromise driving ability. Officers increasingly encounter drivers impaired by these products, yet many differ from traditional impairment profiles. This presentation gives law enforcement the practical tools to recognize these impairing agents, understand their pharmacology, document roadside indicators, and strengthen DWI-D investigations and courtroom outcomes.

Presented by

Kenny Benfield

9:45AM - 11:00AM **Salem 1CB**

Misdemeanor... Murder? Proving What You Didn't See Happen

Securing traffic crash scenes is crucial for accurately determining what occurred, how it occurred, and who may be responsible. First responding Law Enforcement must analyze, interpret, and collect evidence pertinent to the collision. Some evidence may be quickly lost, and some may be present for hours or days. However, rarely does the initial response to these scenes include experts in collision reconstruction or impaired driving. This session will focus on what information should be gathered on the scene, what experts will be needed to analyze it, and how a true team effort is needed to make dying on the highway unacceptable.

Presented by

Joshua Legan, Eric Sweden

9:45AM - 11:00AM **Winston 1A****Quick Wins with Quick Builds: Advancing Vision Zero Through Pilot and Demonstration Projects**

This Pecha Kucha-style presentation will showcase how several North Carolina Vision Zero communities are using quick build projects to rapidly improve roadway safety. Through fast, low-cost, and flexible interventions, local partners will describe how they have come together to design, build, and pilot safety infrastructure on neighborhood streets, downtown corridors, and state-maintained arterials. Presenters will highlight practical examples of traffic calming interventions and lessons learned for successful implementation in NC. Participants will hear about innovative strategies for lowering speeds, calming traffic, improving visibility, and increasing safety for all road users through quick build projects, including through community engagement and evaluation.

Presented by

Lauren Grove, Shane McCarthy, Kurt Stolka, Ellen Walston

11:00AM – 11:30AM

Break with Exhibitors

Winston Ballroom

11:30AM – 12:30PM

Networking Lunch

Salem Ballroom

Invocation by:

Shanon Daniels, North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program

Presenters:

Mark Ezzell, North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program

12:30PM – 12:45PM

Break

12:45PM – 2:00PM

Session Block 2**12:45PM - 2:00PM** **Winston 1CB****From Handbook to Highway: Applying NC Driving Laws to Protect Vulnerable Road Users**

As a supplement to the already successful NC Friendly Driver Program, BikeWalk NC will lead a presentation aimed at further educating drivers education instructors, law enforcement district attorneys on the importance of enforcing existing laws associated with the privilege of driving. The presentation will draw from information within the DMV Driver Handbook, the NC State points system and other resources to emphasize the importance of educating driving professionals, law enforcement and others on the importance of identifying the basic elements that contributed to the crash, investigative considerations and the gathering of information that represents the vulnerable road user in traffic crashes ("any event that results in injury or property damage attributable directly to the motion of a motor vehicle or its load").

Presented by

Kylie Robinson, Oliver Sendall

12:45PM - 2:00PM ▶ **Salem 1A**

Law Enforcement Traffic Stop Safety: Saving Lives Together

This presentation will focus on law enforcement traffic stop safety. D2C works with the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program across the State of North Carolina to educate driver education instructors, students and the community at-large about how to engage with law enforcement when stopped in vehicles. The relationship between law enforcement and the community at-large is a critical one, and D2C educates all parties — both law enforcement and communities at-large about how to build more meaningful relationships.

Presented by
Quentin Williams

12:45PM - 2:00PM ▶ **Salem 1CB**

NC CRIS: Moving Into the Future

This session is for North Carolina law enforcement agencies that submit crash reports, focused on upcoming changes to state and federal reporting requirements. The presentation will introduce the new DMV-349 form, including newly required data fields, the updated reporting structure, and instructions for electronic submission. It will also outline available transition options as agencies prepare for full implementation of the new structure in 2027. In addition, the session will cover new points of contact, updated NHTSA reporting requirements, and changes related to Fatality Analysis Reporting, with emphasis on data accuracy, timelines, and agency responsibilities. This presentation is critical to ensuring agencies are informed, compliant, and prepared for these changes.

Presented by
Jamie Bullock, Clyde Noble, Oba Rease

12:45PM - 2:00PM ▶ **Winston 1A**

The Intersection of Psychology & Road Safety: The Impact of Emotional Regulation & Mental Health on Driver Decision-Making

Traditional safety interventions often overlook the psychological drivers of risky behavior. This session bridges that gap by examining driving as a complex cognitive and emotional task. Drawing from lived experience and developmental psychology, speakers Tasha Hairston Springs and D'Nise Williams explore how trauma, stress, and brain development influence decision-making for both teens and adults. Attendees will learn how to integrate mental health awareness and emotional regulation into safety programs, addressing root causes like distraction and impairment to foster sustainable behavior change and support the Safe System approach for all road users.

Presented by
LaTasha Hairston Springs, D'Nise Williams

2:00PM – 2:30PM

Break with Exhibitors

Winston Ballroom

2:30PM – 3:45PM

Session Block 3

2:30PM - 3:45PM **Salem 1CB****Car Seat Basics for Law Enforcement**

Car Seat Basics for Law Enforcement is a training for law enforcement officers who are not Child Passenger Safety Technicians. This course will equip officers with knowledge to:

- Take an active role in assessing car seat use, according to evidence-based best practices;
- Talk to caregivers about child passenger safety; and
- Share child passenger safety local and national resources with caregivers – all within the context of their regular duties.

Officers will learn key child passenger safety concepts through a series of scenarios that take place in the community. This is a national training developed by NHTSA/National Safety Council.

Presented by

Allan Buchanan, Elizabeth Pinyan, Kristel Robison, Alex Wilkins

2:30PM - 3:45PM **Winston 1CB****Digital Evidence in Crash Reconstruction**

Modern motor vehicle crash reconstruction now comes with multiple sources of digital evidence, event data recorders, dash and roadside cameras, original equipment manufacturer data tools, infotainment systems and more. With evidence from actual fatal crashes that occurred in Raleigh this presentation will show some of the best ways to collect, preserve and then present these information sources in both civil and criminal court.

Presented by

Lee Granger

2:30PM - 3:45PM **Salem 1A****Open Streets: Re-Imagining Streets As Public Spaces for Everyone**

Open Streets events invite people to re-imagine streets as public spaces for everyone by temporarily closing them to drivers and creating a sense of community and connection around safer roads. Durham launched its most ambitious Open Streets event, Move-A-Bull City, in 2025 with a multidisciplinary planning team, including advocacy, government, and healthcare groups. By collaborating across fields, we managed to pull off a stellar first annual event that impressed elected officials, benefited local businesses, and invigorated residents to think more inclusively about safer streets. Our planning team will share our process, including business relations, grant applications, community outreach, volunteer coordination, and many lessons learned, from the perspectives of Bike Durham, City of Durham Transportation, and Duke Trauma Center.

Presented by

Lauren Grove, Tricia Smar, Kyle Sullivan

2:30PM - 3:45PM **Winston 1A****Reporting Crashes: How to Provide the Right Information and Understand Who Uses It**

This session will focus on crash reports and the use of crash data. Daniel Carter with the NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit has used law enforcement crash data for 20 years in pursuit of better safety on the roads through safety improvements. He will cover the best ways that officers can provide key elements of the crash report form. He will also talk about the most important point — how crash report data is used once it is submitted (it's not just for insurance!). Join the session and see how the thousands of crash reports are compiled together to perform analyses that prevent injuries and save lives.

Presented by

Daniel Carter

3:45PM – 4:00PM**Break****4:00PM – 5:00PM****Session Block 4****4:00PM - 5:00PM** **Salem 1A**

A Look Behind the Magic Curtain: Getting to Know the GHSP STEP Reporting System and Website

Want to unlock the GHSP STEP System mysteries? This conference session is for you! Join us to get a refresher on the basics and to hear about changes and updates to the system. This presentation will include speakers from GHSP and the UNC Highway Safety Research Center, which supports and maintains the STEP System for GHSP, to discuss both the rules behind the system as well as how to submit activities and events for your agency. We'll have content geared toward the three different user levels of the system (Local Agency Representatives, County Coordinators, and Law Enforcement Liaisons) and share reminders and tips for everyone. The end of the presentation will be an open Q&A format to help address any questions that we can on-site.

Presented by

Caroline Mozingo**4:00PM - 5:00PM** **Winston 1A**

Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC)

Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) uses a multidisciplinary approach to train law enforcement, prosecutors, criminal analysts, child protective services, victim services, and child advocacy center professionals collectively. The IPC training team works with local, state, federal, tribal, U.S. territory, and international partners to provide classes and educate others on how to intervene when a child is in danger. Documented results prove IPC enhances an officer's ability to identify victims of exploitation, missing children, technology-facilitated crimes against children, high-risk threats against children, and registered sex offender violations. IPC continues to provide invaluable and life-saving lessons, embracing and advocating the proactive message to "Stop Waiting for Children to Ask for Your Help."

The IPC program aims to identify and rescue missing, exploited, or at-risk children (17 years old or older) before they are victimized or further victimized.

Presented by

Mark Nales**4:00PM - 5:00PM** **Winston 1C**

Rethinking Impaired Driving: Oral Fluid Screening

Impaired driving remains a persistent public safety challenge, with drug-impaired driving (DUID) emerging as a multifaceted issue shaped by behavioural health, enforcement practices, and judicial perspectives. Recent findings from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) underscore how mental health can significantly contribute to impaired driving fatalities. This session will highlight how oral fluid screening is being implemented in the United States, discussing its potential and limitations in real-world enforcement. It will examine the often-overlooked role of mental health in impaired driving, highlighting how psychological distress influences substance use and driving behaviour and will provide a judicial perspective on DUID cases, focusing on how oral fluid testing and behavioural factors are considered from the bench.

Presented by

Chuck DeWeese, Christopher Konschak

4:00PM - 5:00PM

Salem 1CB

Tech Solutions for Slowing Speeds

Speeding remains a leading cause of fatalities, but new tools are transforming North Carolina's safety landscape. This session explores the dual power of Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) and Speed Safety Cameras (SSCs). Presenters Amy Cohen and Michael Travers will demonstrate how ISA technology can "Stop Super Speeders" through in-vehicle intervention. Complementing this, Dan Gelinne will detail the 2025 law allowing automated enforcement in school zones. Attendees will gain a roadmap for implementation, covering smart legislation, technical administration, and community advocacy.

Presented by

Amy Cohen, Dan Gelinne, Michael Travers

5:15PM - 5:45PM

Special Feature: The Journey

Winston 1A

Presented by:

Dr. Anne Dickerson, PhD, East Carolina University

Join us for a special feature screening of short films about older drivers. The journey is the story of Sharon, a fiercely independent woman, and her son Steve. In the first of three short films, "Between the Lines" (17 min) illustrates the dilemma of an adult child confronted with his mother showing signs of cognitive impairment, especially when driving. In the second film, "The Road Ahead" (20 min) demonstrates the process of getting a comprehensive driving evaluation from Sharon and Steve's perspective. The films are not training videos, although you will learn about the driving evaluation process, but rather, sharing an emotional story that is common across older adults and their families.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

7:30AM - 8:30AM

Breakfast and Networking with Exhibitors

Winston Ballroom

8:30AM - 9:45AM

Session Block 5

8:30AM - 9:45AM

Salem 1A

Big Rigs, Big Risk: How Enforcement of Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) & Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs) Saves Lives

Federal masking regulations are designed to ensure that states hold commercial driver's license holders — drivers who operate the largest vehicles capable of creating the greatest potential danger — accountable for bad driving behaviors. Learn to identify various disqualifying offenses and sanctions unique to commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) and appreciate how the enforcement of these regulations result in reducing injuries/deaths by keeping unsafe commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers off the roads by assuring that each CMV driver has one driver's license and one complete and accurate driver's record.

Presented by

Bella Truong

8:30AM - 9:45AM **Winston 1CB****Decoding the Drive: Engineers Explain Signals, Speed Limits, and Road Safety Treatments for the Rest of Us**

Join the NCDOT Transportation Mobility and Safety Division for a comprehensive look at the engineering strategies saving lives on North Carolina roads. This session bridges the gap between engineering and real-world safety outcomes, covering:

- Road Safety Treatments: The effectiveness of roundabouts, Reduced Conflict Intersections (RCIs), rumble strips, and more.
- Traffic Signals: A non-engineer's guide to signal phases, timing, and detection — essential for crash investigations.
- Speed Limits: An analysis of 2024 fatal crash data and NCDOT's goals for aligning speed limits with the safety needs of motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

Presented by

Zach Little, Carrie Simpson, Rusty Thompson

8:30AM - 9:45AM **Salem 1CB****Traffic Stops & Crash Response for People with Special Needs**

How can law enforcement recognize and help when someone has special needs at a traffic stop or crash? This session will cover common traits and characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), how to communicate with people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind, and how transportation safety uniquely impacts people with disabilities.

Presented by

Anne Dickerson, Dan Gelinne, Donna Platt

8:30AM - 9:45AM **Winston 1A****Vision Zero & Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement is a critical pillar in the mission to eliminate traffic fatalities. This session dives into examples of how agencies are supporting local Vision Zero programs. Gain insights from successful peer agencies on how to save lives through a multidisciplinary approach to traffic safety.

Presented by

Aaron Black, Kat Dale, Reaghan Murphy

9:45AM – 10:00AM

Break

10:00AM – 11:15AM

Session Block 6

10:00AM - 11:15AM **Salem 1CB****Best Practices for Death Notifications and Fatal Crash Case Management: Part 1**

The Raleigh Police Department's Crash Reconstruction Unit has delivered hundreds of fatal notifications, gaining profound insight into the most difficult aspect of traffic safety. This session shares essential best practices for delivering devastating news with professionalism and empathy. Attendees will learn critical communication strategies — specifically what to say and what to avoid — when notifying grieving families. Beyond the initial knock, the discussion covers managing family expectations during the investigation and technical case management, including scene processing, evidence collection, and vehicle storage. Gain practical tools to balance rigorous investigative standards with compassionate victim services.

Presented by

Lee Granger, Erin Stanley

10:00AM - 11:15AM **Winston 1CB**

Combating Street Takeovers Through Direct Enforcement and Investigations

This presentation focuses on a multi-faceted approach to combating street takeovers impacting North Carolina's public streets and the motoring public. It will cover the application of North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) 20-141.10, along with law enforcement procedures related to this statute, social media monitoring, and intelligence gathering. The presentation will also highlight direct enforcement operations conducted during active street takeovers, including the use of real-time intelligence, undercover officers (UCs), Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) cameras, and coordinated enforcement team tactics. In addition, it will address post-incident investigations, such as executing social media search warrants, obtaining arrest warrants for violators, and seizing vehicles used as evidence in street takeover activities.

Presented by

Andrew Webber, Kevin Wiggins

10:00AM - 11:15AM **Salem 1A**

Data-Driven Strategies: From Hospital Records to Safety Action Plans

This session explores innovative data integration and community-based safety planning. Topics include:

- Healthcare data: Utilizing Emergency Department and EMS data to monitor trends and enhance local and state safety efforts.
- Regional Success: Lessons from the Robeson County Safety Action Plan involving rideshare systems and pastoral care.
- High-Tech Analysis: How Charlotte uses Language Learning Models (LLMs) to process thousands of crash reports for its Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Presented by

Ray Beale, Lauren Blackburn, Katherine Harmon, Matthew Maher, Asa Revels, Will Snyder, Ryan Westrom

10:00AM - 11:15AM **Winston 1A**

Spotting the Fakes: Tactical Approaches to Enforcing Temporary License Plate Fraud

This training provides a robust framework for identifying, documenting, and responding to fraudulent temporary license plates and fake insurance documents. By combining meticulous visual inspections with advanced verification systems, officers are better prepared to safeguard public safety, protect legitimate revenue streams from tax and fees, and disrupt networks of organized crime that utilize these fraudulent mechanisms. The skills imparted in this module are critical not only for immediate enforcement challenges but also for long-term strategic improvements in tackling broader criminal enterprises involved in document fraud. The knowledge gained from this training will enable officers to conduct more effective field investigations, refine enforcement strategies, and pursue offenders through coordinated legal channels. As fraudulent practices evolve, continuous learning and adaptation remain essential pillars of maintaining regulatory integrity and public trust.

Presented by

James Murray

11:15AM – 11:30AM

Break

11:30AM – 1:00PM

Traffic Safety Awards Lunch

Salem Ballroom

Invocation by:








Reverend Beale

Presenters:

Mark Ezzell, *North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program*

Tracy Russ, *Institute for Transportation Research and Education*

Join us for lunch as we recognize outstanding achievements in traffic safety:

-  **Advocate Award:** A person or organization that works to advocate for a traffic safety issue in N.C.
-  **Collaboration Award:** Recognizes a community-wide traffic safety effort that involves multiple partners and collaboration across disciplines.
-  **Designed for Safety Award:** A person, organization, or municipal department that has designed a road/corridor, device, or technology that prioritizes safety or represents an innovative solution to address a safety concern.
-  **Judicial Partner Award:** A prosecutor or judge who has shown dedication to traffic safety in the courtroom and community through their efforts to make our roadways safer.
-  **Law Enforcement Partner Award:** A Law Enforcement department or officer who goes above and beyond in traffic safety efforts to make a difference in their community.
-  **Program Award:** An innovative traffic safety program with significant involvement in promoting traffic safety in a community. All traffic safety-focused programs are eligible including, but not limited to, teen driver safety programs, Law Enforcement programs, public health programs, and bicycle/pedestrian safety programs.
-  **Joe Parker Director's Achievement Award:** This award, named after former GHSP Director Joe Parker, honors the individual who has shown a lifetime of professional commitment to promoting traffic safety across multiple disciplines, including law enforcement, public health and injury prevention.

1:15PM – 1:30PM

Break

1:15PM – 2:30PM

Session Block 7

1:15PM - 2:30PM **Winston 1A**

Building Strong Partnerships to Move Vision Zero from Planning to Implementation

Across North Carolina, communities are embracing Vision Zero, but moving from plans to on-the-ground change requires more than local resolutions. This panel will highlight NC communities from the Charlotte urban area, Pitt County, and Durham, that have demonstrated success in translating Vision Zero goals into action by building diverse, multisector partnerships and investing in strong collaborations. Panelists will share how local governments, public health agencies, transportation professionals, law enforcement, and more can work together to co-create meaningful local change and sustain momentum beyond initial planning. The session will explore practical strategies and real-world examples for aligning data, funding, and other resources to leverage partnerships and implement evidence-based safety projects. Attendees will leave with actionable lessons on building trust, structuring multisector collaborations, and accelerating Vision Zero implementation in their own communities.

Presented by

Elyse Keefe, Will Synder, Lauren Grove, Dianne Thomas

1:15PM - 2:30PM

Salem 1CB

Steering Toward Safety: Best Practices for Teen Driver Engagement

Engaging young drivers requires more than just technical instruction; it demands authentic connection and research-based strategies. This session will include a panel of student leaders sharing peer-to-peer mobilization strategies that foster genuine engagement and retention. Complementing this, officers and educators will learn about proven communication tips and free resources for high-impact outreach in driver's education settings. Attendees will leave with information for elevating youth voices and implementing evidence-based strategies to influence safer teen driving behaviors.

Presented by

Laurel-Ann Attaway, Eliza Fitzpatrick, Berkley Hough, Lexi Rosinski, Tracy Russ

1:15PM - 2:30PM

Winston 1CB

The Blood Counts: Preparing the DWI Search Warrant

This training focuses on the DWI search warrant for blood. It covers the statutes and legal standards governing DWI search warrants. It then goes through the DWI search warrant in its entirety, explaining how to properly fill out the document. It ends with explaining how to properly document items seized pursuant to the warrant and returning the warrant to the courts.

Presented by

David Barbour

1:15PM - 2:30PM

Salem 1A

Understanding the Latest Technology Keeping Roads Safe

Technology holds tremendous promise in helping keep roads safe. This includes new innovative technology, and well as advancing features on existing and common technology.

During this group discussion, panelists will highlight some of those new technologies, and highlight some new advances in existing technologies that can help advance safety (and make our jobs easier!)

Presented by

Alexis Bryson, Jason Deas, Chuck DeWeese, Phil Jones, Donny Wolfe

Moderated by

Mark Ezzell

2:30PM – 3:00PM

Break with Exhibitors

Winston Ballroom

3:00PM – 4:15PM

Session Block 8

3:00PM - 4:15PM

Winston 1CB

Aerial Crash Examination Drone (ACED)

The Raleigh Police Department has investigated hundreds of serious injury and fatal vehicle collisions. This presentation has been designed to educate on the use and importance of drones for evidence gathering, scene re-creation through rendering, and overall aerial photography. While full-scene scanning tools have high costs, drones provide a budget-friendly option for agencies seeking more advanced tools for crash reconstruction.

Presented by

David Harper, Zachary Sisson

3:00PM - 4:15PM**Winston 1A****Beyond the DWI: Understanding Alcohol, Impairment, and Safer Road Use**

Alcohol-related impairment affects road safety in complex and often overlooked and underreported ways. This panel explores the issues across data, response, and prevention. Presenters will review current impaired driving data including sources other than DMV reports, outline approaches for early identification and referral to treatment following alcohol-related crashes and discuss for those able to engage more in depth, the counseling strategies for individuals whose alcohol use does not require treatment but still increases crash risk. With a focus on risk reduction, the session considers how alcohol influences risk for all road users — drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists — and how practitioners can intervene effectively. Participants will walk away with new knowledge and skills on this topic- ready to engage individuals in their community with for safer road use.

Presented by

John Shaw, Elizabeth Shilling, Janice Williams**3:00PM - 4:15PM****Salem 1CB****HGN or Something Else: The Effects of Kratom, Gabapentin, and High-Potency Cannabis on Eye Movements**

This presentation examines how the emerging impairing substances kratom, gabapentin, and high-potency cannabis affect eye movements in ways that may resemble, but are not true Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN). Officers increasingly encounter drivers showing abnormal tracking, rebound effects, eyelid tremors, fixation issues, or exaggerated convergence problems caused by these drugs. Understanding the observable differences between pharmacologically induced eye movement abnormalities and genuine HGN is critical for accurate roadside decisions, proper documentation, and defensible courtroom testimony. This session equips officers with the knowledge to distinguish HGN from “something else,” improving detection of impairment in today’s evolving drug landscape.

Presented by

Kenny Benfield**3:00PM - 4:15PM****Salem 1A****Remember Your "Why." Do Your Job.**

This presentation reinforces the fundamental responsibility every officer carries when enforcing impaired-driving laws. DWI enforcement is not simply a statutory requirement—it is one of the clearest ways we protect lives, uphold public trust, and prevent tragedies before they occur. This session will outline the critical steps of doing the job correctly: conducting thorough investigations, maintaining attention to detail, following established procedures, and holding ourselves accountable to professional standards. These elements are not only operational necessities; they are reflections of our integrity as officers. At the core of this work is the reason each of us entered this profession: to serve our community, safeguard innocent people, and make measurable impacts on public safety. Impaired-driving cases are often where that purpose becomes most visible. Every stop, every arrest, and every properly documented case represents a life potentially saved.

Presented by

Christopher Bradford, Peter Manukas**Traffic Safety Trivia****4:15PM – 5:00PM****Winston Ballroom**

Join us in the Winston Ballroom for a lively game of trivia and compete for cash prizes!

1st Place: \$200 | 2nd Place: \$100 | 3rd Place: \$75 | 4th Place: \$50 | 5th Place: \$25

Thursday, June 4th, 2026

7:30AM – 8:30AM

Breakfast and Networking with Exhibitors

Winston Ballroom

8:30AM – 9:45AM

Session Block 9

8:30AM - 9:45AM **Winston 1A**

Active Transportation for All: Strategies in Pedestrian and Bicycle Education

This session highlights innovative partnerships across Durham and Chapel Hill that integrate life-saving skills into youth culture. Donna Lopp (Safe Routes To School, Durham Public Schools) and Desiree Squire (Bike Durham) discuss embedding pedestrian and bicycle safety directly into public school PE curricula through movement-based lessons and experiential learning. Complementing these school-based efforts, Alyson West (Safe Routes To School Chapel Hill) introduces the award-winning “Wheels of Wellness” program, which brings safety education and bike fleets directly into neighborhoods via community block parties. Attendees will gain actionable strategies for fostering independent mobility, building early safety habits, and leveraging grants to create sustainable, active transportation programs.

Presented by

Donna Loop, Desiree Squire, Alyson West

8:30AM - 9:45AM **Salem 1CB**

Best Practices for Death Notifications and Fatal Crash Case Management: Part 2

The Raleigh Police Department’s Crash Reconstruction Unit has delivered hundreds of fatal notifications, gaining profound insight into the most difficult aspect of traffic safety. This session shares essential best practices for delivering devastating news with professionalism and empathy. Attendees will learn critical communication strategies — specifically what to say and what to avoid — when notifying grieving families. Beyond the initial knock, the discussion covers managing family expectations during the investigation and technical case management, including scene processing, evidence collection, and vehicle storage. Gain practical tools to balance rigorous investigative standards with compassionate victim services.

Presented by

Lee Granger

8:30AM - 9:45AM **Salem 1A**

Multiplying Danger: What Every Officer Must Know About Opiate Potentiation

Opiate potentiators are substances that significantly increase impairment when combined with opioids, leading to greater crash risk and overdose potential. Alcohol, benzodiazepines, gabapentinoids, antihistamines, and other CNS depressants intensify sedation, slow reaction time, and amplify respiratory depression. These combinations produce impairment far beyond opioids alone and are increasingly seen in roadside encounters. Understanding how potentiators magnify driving-related deficits is essential for officers, toxicologists, and traffic-safety professionals to detect impairment better, interpret toxicology results, and develop effective prevention and enforcement strategies.

Presented by

Kenny Benfield

9:45AM – 10:00AM

Break

10:00AM – 11:15AM

Session Block 10

10:00AM - 11:15AM ▶ **Salem 1CB**

Driving the Standard: Shaping Safety Culture from the Inside Out

Discover how organizations are transforming traffic safety by shifting internal beliefs and leveraging safe driving policies. This session explores the practitioner's role in influencing safety culture and examines the National Safety Council's innovative Employer Traffic Safety Program for reducing workplace risk. Join us to learn how to assess your organization's culture and implement data-driven strategies that save lives on and off the job.

Presented by

Katie Dively, Wes Kumfer, Cody Stewart

10:00AM - 11:15AM ▶ **Winston 1CB**

Sovereign Citizens

"I am not driving, I am traveling. I am a free person not subject to your jurisdiction." When your personal contact with a driver starts off with this conversation, you have stopped a sovereign. They aren't just uncooperative; they are potentially dangerous. This session will help you understand the mind-set of the person you have stopped, as well as how to navigate a potential minefield.

Presented by

Ben Byrne

11:15AM – 11:30AM

Break

11:30AM – 12:00PM

Closing Session

Winston Ballroom

Presenter:

Mark Ezzell, North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program



Child
Safety for All

**For over 30 years,
keeping kids safe on the way**

**Bike
Safety**

32+ years



**Child
Passenger Safety**

25+ years



**Pedestrian
Safety**

23+ years



**Certification
Certifying Body**

20+ years



**Off Highway
Vehicles**

20+ years



**Rail
Safety**

10+ years



**School Bus
Safety Support**

30+ years



**Teen
Traffic Safety**

14+ years



Presenter Biographies

Opening Plenary Session Panelists

Vickie Sawyer

Senator

North Carolina State Senate

Senator Vickie Sawyer represents the 37th Senate District in Iredell and Mecklenburg counties. She is in her fourth term and co-chairs the Senate Transportation Committee as well as the appropriations committee for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. She's widely considered a leader in the General Assembly on transportation infrastructure issues. Sawyer and her husband own Sawyer Insurance & Financial Services, one of the largest agencies in Iredell County. She also co-hosts the "We're just sayin'" show on WAME Radio.

Mark Ezell

Director

North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program

Mark Ezell serves as Director of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP), where he leads statewide initiatives aimed at reducing traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities through education, enforcement, and community partnerships. With years of experience in highway safety leadership, Ezell works closely with law enforcement agencies, government partners, and safety advocates to advance programs addressing impaired driving, seat belt use, speeding, distracted driving, and other critical traffic safety issues. He is a recognized advocate for safer roadways and has helped guide North Carolina's efforts to improve transportation safety for all road users.

Daniel Johnson

Secretary

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Daniel Johnson's service as Secretary of Transportation began on Oct. 1, 2025. Appointed to the office by Governor Josh Stein, Johnson builds on his eight years of experience serving in senior executive roles at the N.C. Department of Transportation, including most recently as deputy secretary and general counsel. A native of Hickory, Johnson now lives in Raleigh with his wife and two children.

Opening Plenary Session Panel Moderator

Travis Fain

Editor

Safe Travels NC

Travis Fain is an experienced journalist and communications professional with more than two decades of experience covering state government, public policy, and political affairs. He previously served as a state government reporter for WRAL-TV in Raleigh, where he became widely recognized for his in-depth coverage of the North Carolina General Assembly, campaign finance, and public policy issues. Today, Fain brings his storytelling and communications expertise to Safe Travels NC, where he serves as editor and helps advance public awareness around traffic safety, transportation, and roadway issues across the state.

Breakout Session Presenter Biographies

Laurel-Ann Attaway.....**SESSION:** *Steering Toward Safety: Best Practices for Teen Driver Engagement*

NC Student Leader

Students Against Destructive Decisions

Laurel-Ann Attaway is a 2025 National and Statewide Student Leader for Students Against Destructive Decisions. Laurel-Ann has previously served as a Statewide Student Leader for NC SADD in 2024 and has been the president of her SADD chapter at Rockingham County High School for 3 years.

David Barbour.....**SESSION:** *The Blood Counts: Preparing the DWI Search Warrant*

Police Officer

Clayton Police Department

David Barbour is a law enforcement officer with over a decade of experience, currently serving in the Clayton Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit. Throughout his career, which began in 2015, he has specialized in traffic enforcement and holds advanced certifications as a Drug Recognition Expert and Crash Reconstructionist. With over 1,200 hours of training, David has focused heavily on mastering DWI search warrants to prevent the suppression of blood BAC results in court. As a General and SFST Instructor, he now utilizes his expertise to address procedural gaps and improve investigative accuracy among his peers.

Ray Beale.....**SESSION:** *Safety Data & Local Programs*

Reverend

GHSP Faith Based Outreach Coordinator

Ray Beale is a native of Concord, North Carolina. Ray is a graduate of North Carolina State University and holds a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School. Her Doctor of Ministry focused on predictive factors of emotional and spiritual growth, wellness, and maturity. Ray serves churches in the Raleigh-Durham area, but she is also the Governors Highway Safety Program lead for pastoral care and faith-based outreach in Robeson County.

Kenny Benfield.....**SESSIONS:** *Multiplying Danger: What Every Officer Must Know About Opiate Potentiation;*

Highs in Disguise: Emerging Drug Trends and Impairment Risks in Everyday Items;

Gas-Station Pharmacology: What Today's Drivers Are Using and Why It Matters

Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch Head

NC Public Health, Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch

Kenny Benfield is the Program Manager and Head of the Forensic Tests for Alcohol (FTA) Branch within the North Carolina Division of Public Health. He has over 25 years of law enforcement experience and specializes in impaired-driving enforcement and forensic toxicology. A certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), DRE Instructor, SFST Instructor, and General Instructor, he previously served as the DRE/SFST/ASTD State Coordinator overseeing statewide training programs. Kenny focuses on strengthening impaired-driving countermeasures, forensic alcohol testing, and public-health partnerships to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities. He holds Master's degrees in Justice Administration, Crime Management, and Pharmacy (Pharmaceutical Science), along with a Graduate Certificate in Forensic Toxicology, and has served as a technical expert for ANAB and on multiple state and national impaired-driving committees.

Aaron Black.....**SESSION:** *Vision Zero & Law Enforcement*

Police Captain

City of Belmont

Captain Aaron Black has served with the Belmont Police Dept. since 2018. He has more than 20 years' experience in Law Enforcement. He became a N.C. General Instructor in 2011 which allowed him to teach young recruits in the police academy. He later became a specialized instructor in Use of Force, Taser, O.C. Pepper Spray, ASP, SRO, Active Shooter, Subject Control, Advanced Driving and many other areas of Law Enforcement. He obtained his Advanced Law Enforcement Certification from N.C. Justice Education and Training Standards in 2017. In 2020 he completed the Public Safety Leadership Institute from Central Piedmont Community College, and in early 2025 he completed the FBI LEEDA Trilogy Certification (Law Enforcement Executive Development Association). He is a Hawaiian Native but spent most his childhood in Gaston County and graduated from East Gaston High School. He also has an associate's degree from Ashworth College in Criminal Justice. Captain Black enjoys baseball, basketball, football, and spending time with his wife and children.

Lauren Blackburn..... **SESSION:** *Safety Data & Local Programs*

Multimodal Safety Planning Lead
VHB

Lauren Blackburn, AICP, is a Senior Project Manager with VHB. Ms. Blackburn has over 20 years of experience in multimodal safety planning, and she is based in VHB's Raleigh, North Carolina office. Ms. Blackburn's key areas of interest are in bicycle and pedestrian transportation, comprehensive planning, roadway safety, and community health. Prior to joining VHB, she worked for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as the director of the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Previously, she was the planning manager for the Town of Davidson, North Carolina. Ms. Blackburn received her Bachelors of Landscape Architecture from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and her Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a member of the American Institute for Certified Planners (AICP) and the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP).

Christopher Bradford..... **SESSION:** *Remember your "Why." Do your job*

Sergeant
Raleigh Police Department

Sergeant Christopher Bradford is a veteran law enforcement professional with more than 20 years of experience in traffic safety, impaired-driving enforcement, and crash investigation with the Raleigh Police Department. He is a NHTSA-certified DWI Detection and SFST Instructor, an International Association of Chiefs of Police Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and DRE Instructor, and a North Carolina-certified Chemical Analyst. Sergeant Bradford has investigated more than 500 impaired-driving cases and is a certified Traffic Crash Reconstructionist with extensive experience in fatal and serious-injury crashes involving vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, and motorcycles. He has been qualified as an expert in North Carolina courts in DWI detection, SFSTs, drug recognition, HGN, and crash reconstruction. A long-time instructor, he teaches DWI, ARIDE, DRE, crash investigation, and traffic safety courses at the local, state, and national levels, and has presented at national conferences including the IACP Impaired Driving & Traffic Safety Conference and the National Lifesavers Conference. His work has earned statewide recognition, including multiple North Carolina DRE Instructor of the Year awards and leadership of a unit recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving as Law Enforcement Agency of the Year. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Emergency and Disaster Management.

Stephen Burritt..... **SESSION:** *Death Notification Victim Sensitivity*

Regional Executive Director
Mothers Against Drunk Driving North Carolina

Steven Burritt is the Regional Executive Director for Mothers Against Drunk Driving in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. He took on the Executive Director title in South Carolina as of January 2018 but performed a similar role under the title of Program Director since he joined MADD in July 2013. During his twelve years with MADD SC, the staff has grown from two to 10 along with increased mission activity in victim services, court monitoring, underage drinking programming, and law enforcement support. Steven is in charge of the state office's fundraising, grants, partnerships, and media presence. In January 2021, Steven began working in a similar role with the team in MADD North Carolina, and Tennessee in early 2025. He currently serves as the chair of the South Carolina Impaired Driving Prevention Council.

Ben Byrne..... **SESSION:** *Sovereign Citizens*

CEO
Astute Synthesis

Benjamin Byrne was a full-time police officer with the Apex Police Department from 2001 to 2014 where he worked on patrol, in investigations, and was a supervisor over investigations. In 2009 he was assigned to the North Carolina Information Sharing and Analysis Center (NC ISAAC) task force. He has been researching sovereign citizens since 2010 and teaches government officials across the country about them through his business, Astute Synthesis. He currently holds a general instructor certification and is a certified State and Local Anti-Terrorism (SLATT) instructor. Since July 2014 he transitioned to a corporate investigator position in the private sector and he maintains a reserve officer position with the Wake Technical Community College campus police. Additionally, he obtained a Master's in Education in 2021 from NC State University.

Margaret Cannell.....**SESSIONS:** *Railroad Investigation Safety Course (RISC); Face to Face for Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers*
Executive Director/State Coordinator
North Carolina Operation Lifesaver

Margaret is the Executive Director/State Coordinator of North Carolina Operation Lifesaver. Margaret travels the state participating in safety and educational events in an attempt to prevent railroad injuries and deaths.

Daniel Carter.....**SESSION:** *Reporting Crashes: How to Provide the Right Information and Understand Who Uses It*
Traffic Safety Specialist
NC Department of Transportation

Daniel Carter is a safety project engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He serves in the safety planning group where he uses safety analysis methods to inform NCDOT project priorities and alternatives. His focus areas are in crash data, roadway data, and integrating these data together in a spatial environment for safety analysis.

Amy Cohen.....**SESSION:** *Tech Solutions for Slowing Speeds*
Founder & President
Families for Safe Streets

Amy Cohen is a national leader in traffic safety advocacy and a powerful voice for families affected by traffic violence. After her 12-year-old son Sammy was killed by a driver in 2013, she founded Families for Safe Streets to transform grief into action. The organization advances a two-part mission: advocating for proven policies that prevent crashes and supporting people whose lives have been shattered by them. Under Amy's leadership, Families for Safe Streets has grown into a national movement, helping secure lifesaving reforms across the country, including lower speed limits, automated enforcement, and the Stop Super Speeders campaign to promote Intelligent Speed Assistance for the most dangerous drivers. Amy works to ensure that every transportation decision centers safety, accountability, and the value of human life.

Kat Dale.....**SESSION:** *Vision Zero & Law Enforcement*
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Town of Winterville, NC

Dr. Katherine "Kat" Dale is the Safe Routes to School coordinator and Vision Zero lead for the Town of Winterville, NC in eastern North Carolina. As of January, she is also the Programs Manager for Oaks & Spokes, Raleigh's primary bike and pedestrian advocacy nonprofit. In both roles, she is working to bring together community, municipal, and state partners to make streets safer for everyone through data-driven projects, creative programming, and strong coalitions. She is passionate about creating communities where biking, walking, and other active transportation modes are safe, accessible, and integral to everyday life.

Chuck DeWeese.....**SESSION:** *Rethinking Impaired Driving: Oral Fluid Screening*
Traffic Safety Specialist
Responsibility.org

Chuck DeWeese is the President of Connecting Clients Consulting, LLC, based in Saratoga, New York. He provides strategic consulting services in traffic safety, including initiatives targeting impaired driving, distracted driving, Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety, younger drivers, speed, pedestrian and bike safety, automated vehicles, traffic enforcement issues and risky driving behaviors. He has over thirty years of experience in federal and state government, including 17 years as a Special Agent and Field Office Supervisor for the FMCSA regulating the trucking industry. Most recently, Chuck served as the Assistant Commissioner of the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee from 2007-2022. Chuck now consults and works with Responsibility.org to present on the benefits or roadside oral fluid testing.

Dr. Anne Dickerson, PhD.....**SESSIONS:** *Traffic Stops and Crash Response for People with Special Needs; Age-Friendly Roads: Law Enforcement Guide to Promoting Driver Safety*
Professor
East Carolina University

As an occupational therapist, psychologist, and driving rehabilitation specialist, Dr. Dickerson is an international leader in research in areas of older adults, driving rehabilitation driver simulation, and teens/young adult drivers with autism spectrum disorder. She was awarded ECU's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity for her scholarly achievements as well as the 2024 North Carolina's Traffic Safety Partner award. She has presented nationally and internationally on topics of aging, driving safety, driving technology, and fitness to drive, and drivers with autism.

Katie Dively..... **SESSION:** *Organizational Safety Programs & Traffic Safety Culture*

Managing Partner
Banyan Collaborative

Katie Dively is a public health expert dedicated to fostering healthier communities and organizations. Katie leverages her Master’s degree in Health Promotion and Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) certification to guide communities and organizations towards positive change. With over two decades of experience developing and implementing innovative solutions to complex health challenges, Katie has also trained and mentored countless communities and organizations across the United States. Her expertise spans a wide range of health issues, from the misuse of substances and traffic safety culture to child maltreatment and problem gambling. Katie’s passion for evidence-based prevention strategies ensures that her guidance is grounded in research and best practices. Katie works remotely from her home in North Carolina. When she’s not working, she enjoys exploring new places, and spending quality time with her husband, Tim, family, and friends.

Eliza Fitzpatrick..... **SESSION:** *Steering Toward Safety: Best Practices for Teen Driver Engagement*

North Carolina State Coordinator
Students Against Destructive Decisions

Eliza Fitzpatrick serves as the North Carolina State Coordinator with Students Against Destructive Decisions. With more than 4 years of experience with SADD, Eliza is passionate about youth traffic safety and peer-to-peer education in prevention. Eliza is a second-year social work master's student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a professional focus on mental health and driving.

Dan Gelinne..... **SESSION:** *Tech Solutions for Slowing Speeds*

Senior Research Associate
UNC Highway Safety Research Center

Dan Gelinne is a Senior Research Associate at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center, where he works to prevent traffic deaths and injuries with a focus on those walking, bicycling, and using transit. He manages research projects for national, state, and local agencies, and also works to translate research findings into actionable guidance and tools for road safety professionals.

Lee Granger..... **SESSION:** *Investigating Wrong Way Collisions*

Police Sergeant
Raleigh Police Department

Lee Granger is a Sergeant with the Raleigh Police Department who was previously assigned to the fatal crash reconstruction unit. Lee has investigated many high profile and fatality collisions in Raleigh and is called upon for his expert opinion by other officers. Lee is a Drug Recognition Expert, a Crash Reconstruction Expert and has been tendered as an expert witness in both District and Superior Courts of North Carolina.

Lauren Grove..... **SESSIONS:** *Open Streets: Re-imagining Streets as Public Spaces for Everyone;*

Vision Zero Coordinator
City of Durham *Building Strong Partnerships to Move Vision Zero from Planning to Implementation;*
Quick Wins with Quick Builds: Advancing Vision Zero through Pilot and Demonstration Projects

Lauren Grove is the Vision Zero Coordinator for the City of Durham, leading efforts to eliminate traffic deaths through evidence-based planning, cross-departmental collaboration, and safe street design. With a background in neuroscience and urban planning, she brings a public health lens to transportation safety and works to embed Vision Zero into the core of city systems and culture.

LaTasha Hairston Springs..... **SESSION:** *The Intersection of Psychology & Road Safety: The impact of Emotional Regulation & Mental Health on Driver Decision Making*

Founder
Mindfully Aware Driving Solutions

Tasha Hairston Springs is a survivor of a serious distracted driving crash whose lived experience led her into over a decade of traffic safety advocacy and behavioral research. With a background in psychology and a focus on trauma-informed approaches, she examines why drivers continue risky behaviors despite knowing the consequences — and what actually supports lasting change. Her work centers on prevention, attention, and self-regulation as essential components of safer driving and Vision Zero efforts.

Katherine Harmon..... **SESSION:** *Safety Data & Local Programs*

Senior Health Sciences Research Associate
University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Dr. Harmon is a Senior Health Sciences Research Associate at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center. She also serves as faculty at the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center and holds an adjunct faculty appointment in the UNC Department of Emergency Medicine. Trained as an epidemiologist, Dr. Harmon specializes in injury prevention and surveillance methods, with a focus on advancing research and strategies to reduce injury-related morbidity and mortality.

David Harper..... **SESSION:** *Aerial Crash Examination Drone (ACED)*

Senior Officer
Raleigh Police Department

Officer Harper has been with the Raleigh Police Department for over 10 years and a member of the Crash Reconstruction unit for two years.

Shannen Johnson..... **SESSION:** *Age-Friendly Roads: Law Enforcement Guide to Promoting Driver Safety*

Junior Research Associate
University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Shannen Johnson is a Junior Research Associate at University of North Carolina’s Highway Safety Research Center. Her research focuses primarily on occupant protection, impaired driving, health equity, teen & older driver safety, and program evaluation. Shannen is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) with an MA in Health Education and Health Promotion and has experience working with various populations, designing, and implementing evidence-based interventions and strategies centered around health and well-being.

Elyse Keefe..... **SESSION:** *Building Strong Partnerships to Move Vision Zero from Planning to Implementation*

Road Safety Project Coordinator
University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center

As a Project Manager at the Injury Prevention Research Center, Elyse contributes to a variety of projects and programs focused on advancing Safe Systems approaches to road safety using a public health framework. She currently coordinates technical assistance and leadership development efforts for Vision Zero communities across North Carolina as well as a number of other projects to advance systems thinking for a variety of audiences. Elyse holds master's degrees in Public Health and Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Bevan Kirley..... **SESSION:** *Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Workshop*

Senior Research Associate
University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Bevan is a Senior Research Associate and Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor at the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center. Her research interests focus on the behavioral side of transportation safety.

Christopher Kenschak..... **SESSION:** *Rethinking Impaired Driving: Oral Fluid Screening*

Senior Director, Traffic Safety and Government Relations
Responsibility.org

Chris is an impaired driving/traffic safety professional and lawyer with over 30 years experience. He joined Responsibility.org as Senior Director of Traffic Safety and Government Relations in 2020. He spent the last 17 years as Director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Virginia. Chris began his career as a Congressional Aide with US Senator Alan Cranston. He has also worked as the Director of the Virginia Federation of Communities for Drug-Free Youth, the Director of Offender Aid and Restoration, the Public Safety Planner for the City of Richmond, VA, and an Administrator with Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services. He has devoted his career to serving others and working to prevent impaired driving. Chris earned his JD from Howard University School of Law and his BA in Political Science and Speech Communications from the University of Richmond.

Wes Kumfer..... **SESSION:** *Organizational Safety Programs & Traffic Safety Culture*

Senior Research Associate

University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Wesley Kumfer, Ph.D., is an Engineering Research Associate at HSRC with a wealth of experience in crash data analysis, the Safe System Approach, education, and workforce development. Dr. Kumfer has served as Principal Investigator for a variety of projects funded by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program, and more. Through work with FHWA and NHTSA, he has contributed important knowledge to the state of practice on topics like speed management, the Safe System Approach, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and behavioral countermeasures. Dr. Kumfer has also developed multiple university course curricula and has been an active instructor for the Road Safety Academy and the Traffic Engineering Accident Analysis System.

Joshua Legan..... **SESSIONS:** *ARIDE: Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement Refresher Training; Misdemeanor...Murder? Proving What You Didn’t See Happen*

Sergeant

North Carolina State Highway Patrol

Sgt. Legan is an SFST and DRE Instructor through the International Association of Chiefs of Police and a senior DWI Instructor Trainer in North Carolina. He has been qualified as an expert witness for impaired driving cases in both District and Superior Courts. Sgt. Legan has been sought out across the country, teaching at the local, state, and national level. He is a proud dad to Jenna, a collector of classic car parts, and a teller of really bad jokes.

Dan Levitt..... **SESSION:** *A Look Behind the Magic Curtain: Getting to Know the GHSP STEP Reporting System and Website*

Application Analyst

University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Dan Levitt joined the UNC Highway Safety Research Center in April 2010 as a research assistant with a wide-ranging array of responsibilities in the research data management realm. He has vast experience with vehicle hardware installation, data retrieval, and analysis file preparation for naturalistic driving studies. In Dan’s his current role as an applications analyst at HSRC, he creates and maintains various web applications and works in the development and maintenance of HSRC’s databases, including the GHSP STEP Reporting System and Website. He also devises and manages data collection systems for anything from coding video clips to geocoding crashes for localized studies using SAS, Google Earth and ArcGIS.

Zach Little..... **SESSION:** *Decoding the Drive: Signals, Speed Limits, and Road Safety Treatments for the Layman*

Eastern Region Signals Engineer

North Carolina Division of Transportation

Zach is an expert in traffic signal design with over 25 years of experience working in the Transportation Systems Management & Operations Unit at NCDOT. He has his P.E. and received his B.S. in civil engineering from NCSU. He is currently the Eastern Region Signals Engineer in the Signal Design Section.

Donna Loop..... **SESSION:** *Active Transportation for All: Strategies in Pedestrian and Bicycle Education*

Safe Routes to School Educator

Durham Public Schools

Donna’s work has always been at the intersection of experiential learning, public health, and environmental sustainability. With a passion for education and a history of bike commuting and advocacy for safe, active travel, Donna loves serving as Durham Public Schools’ Safe Routes to School Educator. In this role she leads pedestrian safety educational programming in elementary schools, has developed and worked with high school students on an action research project regarding transit, and supports bicycle safety education led by the partner organization, Bike Durham. Donna grew up in the North Carolina public school system before earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts from East Carolina University and a Master’s Degree in International Education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her work has taken her to various parts of the country and the world and she is now happy to call Durham, NC home.

Matthew Maher..... **SESSION:** *Safety Data & Local Programs*

Principal
Stantec

Matthew Maher is a Principal who has over fifteen years of experience with Stantec. He has served as a Project Manager for both public and private sector clients, which have involved the oversight of road safety audits, HSM analyses, systemic safety analyses, traffic impact studies, alternative analyses, concept development studies, and traffic calming studies. Whether he is presenting technical findings to clients or explaining the results of analyses in layman's terms at Public Information Centers and testimonies, Matthew's knowledge of and passion for transportation safety is evident. Matthew graduated with honors in 2008 from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey with a Bachelors in Civil Engineering. Matthew lives in Lake Mary, Florida, working on projects up and down the east coast, and is graciously supported by his loving wife, Christy, five-year old daughter, Madison, and one-year old son, Nicholas.

Peter Manukas..... **SESSION:** *Remember Your "Why." Do Your Job*

Major
Raleigh Police Department

Major Peter Manukas serves with the Raleigh Police Department, leading the Field Operations Division of nearly 400 sworn and civilian employees. He manages operations, budget oversight, and training, and secured a Governor's Highway Safety Program grant to create the city's DWI Squad. He also oversees the FLEX Team, supporting proactive crime reduction. Previously, Peter was a Captain and North District Commander, strengthening community partnerships and launching the department's first Christmas Toy Giveaway. As a Lieutenant, he led units in the Hospitality District and helped establish the Traffic FLEX Unit to improve roadway safety citywide. Peter began his career as a patrol officer before joining Crash Reconstruction. He is a NHTSA SFST Instructor, IACP DRE and DRE Instructor, and teaches at the Raleigh Police Academy and the NC Conference of District Attorneys. He also coordinates law-enforcement staffing for large events at the Lenovo Center.

Shane McCarthy..... **SESSION:** *Quick Wins with Quick Builds: Advancing Vision Zero through Pilot and Demonstration Projects*

Traffic Safety Engineer
City of Raleigh

Shane McCarthy, PE is a Traffic Safety Engineer with the City of Raleigh's Vision Zero Program. He is originally from Asheville, North Carolina and is an alumnus of NC State University. His work at the City of Raleigh includes traffic signal construction management, safety improvements using signs, pavement markings, and traffic signals, and public communications. Shane lives in Raleigh with his wife Emily, their 1-year-old daughter Ivy, and their dog Oona.

Bradley Meyers..... **SESSION:** *Railroad Investigation Safety Course (RISC)*

Senior Police Officer
Apex Police Department

Officer Meyers has been a police officer for nearly 13 years. He started his law enforcement career at the Chapel Hill Police Department in 2012 and then moved laterally to the Apex Police Department in 2017. Officer Meyers is a Specialized Firearms Instructor, and also teaches in several other subjects including railroad safety. Officer Meyers previously worked as a Conductor for the Norfolk Southern Railroad in 2007 which bolsters his passion and knowledge of the railroad and railroad safety.

Caroline Mazingo..... **SESSION:** *A Look Behind the Magic Curtain: Getting to Know the GHSP STEP Reporting System and Website*

Co-Director, Strategic Communications, Partnerships, and Operations
University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Caroline Mazingo leads internal and external communications, strategic development, and supports individual project communications needs at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center. She is the primary public contact for HSRC, arranging interviews and press briefings, and proactively disseminating key research findings to transportation, health and safety practitioners, state and national-level policymakers, and researchers. Caroline and a team of talented web programmers and graphic designers at HSRC have supported the NC GHSP Statewide Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)Website and Reporting System and users for more than a decade.

Reaghan Murphy **SESSION:** *Vision Zero & Law Enforcement*

Senior Transportation Planner

City of Belmont

As Senior Transportation Planner for the City of Belmont, Reaghan leads efforts to cultivate a connected and accessible transportation system for residents, visitors, and commuters. With experience in both municipal and regional government, she brings expertise in multimodal mobility and land use planning, policy development, and community engagement. Reaghan excels at bridging technical analysis and storytelling to support informed, people-centered decision making. In her current role, she leads Vision Zero implementation projects, manages long-range initiatives and projects, shapes transportation and infrastructure policy, and collaborates with local leaders and regional partners to realize the city's mobility vision. She holds a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Southern California and dual degrees in Geography and Global Studies from the University of South Carolina Honors College.

James Murray **SESSION:** *Spotting the Fakes: Tactical Approaches to Enforcing Temporary License Plate Fraud*

Deputy Sheriff

Union County Sheriff's Office

James Murray is a dedicated law enforcement professional at the Union County Sheriff's Office, where he has faithfully served as a Deputy Sheriff since 2013. Over the course of his distinguished career, James has become renowned for his expertise in handling critical situations related to impaired driving and drug-related offenses. His certifications as a Drug Recognition Expert, Drug Recognition Expert Instructor, and Standardized Field Sobriety Instructor highlight his deep commitment to advanced law enforcement training and public safety. James devoted nearly six years to a specialized DWI task force, a period during which he contributed significantly to the apprehension of over 500 individuals suspected of driving under the influence. His technical acumen and methodical approach in identifying impaired drivers have set a high standard within his department, enhancing both community safety and operational effectiveness on the roads.

Mark Nales **SESSION:** *Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC)*

Sergeant

North Carolina State Highway Patrol

Sergeant Mark C. Nales, II is one of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol's Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) coordinators and routinely assists Troopers and other LEOs with investigations ranging from narcotics to rescuing missing/exploited children and identifying high-risk threats to children. Currently stationed in Troop D District 7 (Orange County), Sergeant Nales is a field liaison officer (FLO) responsible for facilitating coordination between law enforcement at the federal, state and local levels and civilian partners across several disciplines. He possesses a MS degree in Criminal Justice – Public Administration and has an unrelenting passion for tackling human trafficking and other major crimes threatening our state. Sergeant Nales served in the Highway Patrol's Special Operations Division for three (3) years on the Criminal Interdiction Unit (CIU) and as a federally sworn task force officer with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). He brings a wealth of investigative knowledge and experience to the table, having proven himself an asset in investigations at every level, from local to federal. He believes, "Teamwork makes the dreamwork and we would all be pleasantly surprised by how much we can achieve together, when we're not concerned about who gets the credit."

Clyde Noble **SESSION:** *NC CRIS: Moving Into The Future*

Operations Manager

North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles

Clyde Noble is the Operations Manager for the Business Services Unit for the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. He oversees the Crash Reporting, Data Control, Operational Support, FARS, and Plate Distribution units, ensuring efficient processes, data integrity, and high-quality service delivery across these critical operational areas.

Elizabeth Pinyan **SESSION:** *Car Seat Basics for Law Enforcement*

Junior Research Associate

University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Elizabeth Pinyan is a Junior Research Associate at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center with expertise in behavioral research, health communication, program evaluation, and community engagement. She has served as a co-investigator on multiple projects focused on improving transportation safety across the lifespan at both the state and national levels. Elizabeth holds a Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) in Health Education and Health Communication from Johns Hopkins University. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), CarFit Event Coordinator, and CPST.

Donna Platt **SESSION:** *Traffic Stops & Crash Response for People with Special Needs*

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Donna Platt is the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She has approximately 25 years' experience providing consultation, training, resources, and collaboration with emergency entities in North Carolina and Washington State on effective communication access for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind individuals. Donna also provided consultation to the NC Justice Academy on training curriculum [Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) an in-service], as well as communication guide with visual aid for law enforcement officers to communicate with Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind individuals. She is on numerous work groups with the NC Emergency Management's Human Service Branch. Donna is currently the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Accessibility Committee Co-Chair. She has served on advisory committees with the FCC and FEMA.

Oba Rease **SESSION:** *NC CRIS: Moving Into The Future*

Program Coordinator

North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles

Oba M. Rease "Mickey" serves as Program Coordinator II in Rocky Mount, NC, where he works with law enforcement agencies and data systems and compliance programs. With over 10 years of experience at DMV, Oba has held key leadership roles across multiple departments. Prior to his current position, he served as Supervisor in Driver Services in Quality Control, and later as Plate Distribution Manager in Business Operations. His extensive background in operational management and compliance makes him a trusted resource for implementing efficient processes and ensuring accuracy in statewide programs. While working in Business operations he has developed extensive experience in crash reporting technology (TraCS), DPPA regulations, and agency coordination, Mickey has led initiatives to streamline TraCS, data extraction, and improve statewide traffic safety programs. He is committed to helping agencies adopt secure, efficient solutions for public safety.

Asa Revels **SESSION:** *Safety Data & Local Programs*

Executive Director

PAWSS Inc, Rides for Robeson

Dr. Asa Revels is the Executive Director of PAWSS, Inc., a position she has held since 2019. She is also the former Chair of the Board of Stop the Pain, a position she held from 2015 to 2022. Dr. Revels is a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and owner of Red Women LLC, a consulting firm. She has her Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from North Carolina State University, Master's in Public Health Policy and Management from Emory University in Atlanta, and her PhD in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior from the University of South Carolina, Columbia. She has experience across a range of fields including civil engineering, substance use disorders, genetics, violence and injury prevention, virology, chronic disease, and aging. Most of her work has focused on understanding and improving the outcomes of socially and economically disadvantaged populations, specifically American Indians.

Kylie Robinson **SESSION:** *From Handbook to Highway: Applying NC Driving Laws to Protect Vulnerable Road Users*

Marketing

BikeWalk NC

Kylie is originally from Northern Virginia and now calls Raleigh home after a stint in Asheville, NC. She graduated from George Mason University with a BFA in Art & Visual Technology, where she really got into the nitty-gritty of creativity and digital marketing. During college, Kylie dove headfirst into the digital world as a marketing intern, learning how to use online platforms to connect and engage with people. After graduation, she spent two rewarding years at MemoryCare, a small nonprofit in Asheville, focusing on outreach and fundraising support. It was there that she saw firsthand how powerful communication can be in making a difference. Outside of work, you can find her with a camera in hand, capturing moments, or out in nature, hiking, camping, and running. She is also a die-hard fan of DC sports teams – there's nothing quite like cheering them on. Kylie is deeply passionate about using language and communication as tools for positive change and her goal is to continue combining those skills with her desire to help others, driving initiatives that make a real impact in our communities.

Kristel Robison..... **SESSIONS:** *Age-Friendly Roads: Law Enforcement Guide to Promoting Driver Safety*
Car seat basics for Law Enforcement; CPS Workshop;

Senior Research Associate

University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Kristel Robison is a Senior Research Associate with the Highway Safety Research Center. Her focus is on occupant protection, older drivers and novice drivers, with a particular focus on child passenger safety. Ms. Robison has extensive experience in the design and implementation of behavioral interventions, survey design and community-based programs. She is a skilled group facilitator, with years of experience in leading groups of all ages.

Lexi Rosinski..... **SESSION:** *Steering Toward Safety: Best Practices for Teen Driver Engagement*

NC Student Leader

Students Against Destructive Decisions

Lexi Rosinski is a 2025 Statewide Student Leader for Students Against Destructive Decisions. Though new to SADD, Lexi is passionate about traffic safety and keeping her peers safe on the road. Lexi is also the founder of Wakefield Drives Safe, a mobility safety organization designed to empower students to take responsibility for their actions on the road, support each other in making safe choices, and become advocates for safer driving habits.

Tracy Russ..... **SESSION:** *Steering Toward Safety: Best Practices for Teen Driver Engagement*

Program Manager

ITRE at NC State University

Tracy Russ is the Program Manager for the Traffic Safety Marketing & Programs group at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) at NC State University. She specializes in social marketing and behavior change programs and serves on the leadership team for the NC Families for Safe Streets. She holds a Master’s degree in Communication from North Carolina State University.

Oliver Sendall..... **SESSION:** *From Handbook to Highway: Applying NC Driving Laws to Protect Vulnerable Road Users*

Community Outreach Coordinator

Bike Walk NC

In this role with BikeWalk NC, Oliver executes the organization's social media strategy, while building and sustaining partner relationships to support programs and grant initiatives. Oliver has Bachelors Degree in Parks and Recreation Management from North Carolina State University and a Masters of Public Administration at Florida Gulf Coast University. His professional experience includes work in community recreation, private sector planning, and event management. He appreciates the opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge gained from this diverse experience to his role with BikeWalk NC.

John Shaw..... **SESSION:** *Beyond the DWI: Understanding Alcohol, Impairment, and Safer Road Use*

Senior Research Scholar

ITRE at NC State University

John Shaw is a multidisciplinary road safety professional with a background in civil engineering and community planning. Shaw has more than 30 years of transportation experience, including 18 years at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and 12 in transportation research. Of particular note for today’s presentation, while at Iowa State University, Shaw led a partnership seeking to get drivers with low-level substance use disorders into treatment more promptly. Since joining the ITRE/NC State research staff in November 2024, Shaw has primarily been working on analytics for making the best possible use of transportation safety funding.

Elizabeth Shilling..... **SESSION:** *Beyond the DWI: Understanding Alcohol, Impairment, and Safer Road Use*

Director

Advocacy, Recovery, Compassion & Healing Clinical Services at Wake Forest University School of Medicine

Elizabeth Shilling, PhD, LCMHC, LCAS, CCS is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and the Director of ARCH (Advocacy, Recovery, Compassion & Healing) clinical services, an integrated care program providing addiction and mental health counseling at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist hospital. She has over 15 years of experience in addiction treatment and research, mental health treatment and research, and graduate education.

Carrie Simpson **SESSION:** *Decoding the Drive: Signals, Speed Limits, and Road Safety Treatments for the Layman*

Safety Evaluation Engineer

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Carrie graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Valparaiso University and a M.S.C.E. from North Carolina State University. She is a registered Professional Engineer in NC and has worked within the NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit for over 20 years. She is currently the NCDOT Safety Evaluation Engineer and is responsible for managing a team of engineers in evaluating safety and mobility programs and projects across the State. While working for the Department, Carrie has published research on safety topics such as flashing yellow arrow, dynamic all-red extension, vehicle entering when flashing signs, all-way stops, and school zone flashers.

Zachary Sisson **SESSION:** *Aerial Crash Examination Drone (ACED)*

Senior Officer

Raleigh Police Department

Zachary Sisson has been a Law Enforcement Officer with the Raleigh Police Department for over 8 years. He is currently assigned to the Crash Reconstruction Unit, Investigations Division. He has been involved in the investigation of thousands of motor vehicle collisions, including fatal collisions.

Tricia Smar **SESSION:** *Open Streets: Re-imagining Streets as Public Spaces for Everyone*

Adult Injury Prevention Coordinator

Trauma Services, Duke University Hospital

Tricia joined the Trauma Center team at Duke University Hospital as the Injury Prevention Coordinator in June 2017. In this role, she provides education and outreach throughout Durham and surrounding counties aimed at preventing injuries, as well as collaboration with local and regional agencies addressing injuries in various ways. Her focus is on the top mechanisms of injury seen at Duke: falls, motor vehicle crashes, and gunshot wounds. Prior to working at Duke, Tricia was in the sexual violence prevention field at the regional and state level in NC for about six years. Tricia earned her undergraduate degrees at the University of Maryland at College Park and her Masters in Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Will Snyder **SESSIONS:** *Safety Data & Local Programs;*

Project Implementation Planner

Building Strong Partnerships to Move Vision Zero from Planning to implementation

Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization

William is a Project Implementation Planner with the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization, having followed from his five years of experience as an urban planning practitioner. He currently serves as Project Manager for the Safety is Everyone's Business contract, and had also played an instrumental part in successfully obtaining nearly \$4 million in grant funding for this project. Will is graduate from Ball State University, where he earned the Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association's 2022 Undergraduate Planning Student of the Year award, was recognized as a Ball State Top 100 Student, and named the 2022 Emens Outstanding Senior of his graduating class, reflective of his commitment to enhancing student quality of life through his formal planning education on campus. Will's planning interest lies predominantly in mobility and land use, identifying opportunities for regional mobility that supports all modes of active and motorized transportation.

Desiree Squire **SESSION:** *Active Transportation for All: Strategies in Pedestrian and Bicycle Education*

Education Program Manager

Bike Durham

Desiree Squire is the Education Program Manager at Bike Durham and an LCI certified cycling instructor. She coordinates bike safety education for elementary students, teens, and adults, along with transit travel training programs across Durham. Desiree focuses on creating classroom experiences that feel clear, welcoming, and accessible to all learners. Her work supports confidence, independence, and real world safety skills for people across Durham. Her own early experiences with cycling shaped her belief that every child deserves access to supportive and accessible bike safety education.

Erin Stanley **SESSION:** *Best Practices for Death Notifications and Fatal Crash Case Management*

Assistant Professor
UNC School of Nursing

Dr. Erin Stanley, DNP, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P, is an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing with over a decade of nursing practice. Her clinical background includes seven years as an emergency department nurse and ongoing work as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner providing trauma-informed forensic care for survivors of violence. As a former Certified Child Life Specialist, she brings a deeply patient-centered perspective to both clinical practice and nursing education. Her work focuses on simulation, forensic nursing, and preparing future nurses for complex care environments. Outside of academia, she enjoys time with her beloved “floofy boys”—her cats.

Kurt Stoika **SESSION:** *Quick Wins with Quick Builds: Advancing Vision Zero through Pilot and Demonstration Projects*

Vision Zero Coordinator
Town of Chapel Hill

Kurt Stolka is the Vision Zero Coordinator for the Town of Chapel Hill, advancing data-backed, community-focused strategies to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries. He works across departments to create safer, more accessible streets and expand convenient options for residents to live car-free. With experience in transportation planning and safety program development, he focuses on building a collaborative, equitable safety culture. A regular bike commuter, and someone who proudly travels at or below the speed limit, Kurt brings both personal and professional commitment to creating safe streets for everyone

Eric Sweden **SESSION:** *Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Refresher Training*

Lieutenant (Retired)
Raleigh Police Department

Eric Sweden is retired from the Raleigh Police Department. He is a Drug Recognition Expert and Instructor as well as a NC credentialed Paramedic who has taught on the topic of impairment across the United States. Eric has been tendered as an Expert Witness in the field of impaired driving in both District and Superior Courts in North Carolina.

Diane Thomas **SESSION:** *Building Strong Partnerships to Move Vision Zero from Planning to Implementation*

Built Environments for Active Living Supervisor
Mecklenburg County

Dianne has worked 10 years for Mecklenburg County Public Health under the Office of Chronic Disease Policy & Prevention. She currently serves as the Built Environments for Active Living (BEAL) Supervisor which includes the evidence-based program Safe Routes to School. Dianne serves on the Vision Zero task force for the Town of Matthews, the City of Charlotte and the CRTPO Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Dianne has her BSBA from the Kenan-Flagler Business School, UNC-Chapel Hill and an MBA from the McColl School of Business, Queen’s University.

Rusty Thompson **SESSION:** *Decoding the Drive: Signals, Speed Limits, and Road Safety Treatments for the Layman*

Eastern Regional Field Operations Engineer
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Rusty is the NCDOT Eastern Regional Field Operations Engineer. With over 35 years of transportation engineering experience between public and private sectors, Rusty possesses a wide range of skills from budgeting, forecasting, developing strategic partnerships, contract administration, engineering, project management and working closely and effectively with a variety of agencies on small to complex projects.

Michael Travers **SESSION:** *Tech Solutions for Slowing Speeds*

President
LifeSaver

Michael Travers is a leader in vehicle safety with extensive experience in advancing innovative technologies. As someone deeply committed to advancing road safety, Michael has spearheaded programs that reduce crashes, promote safe driving behaviors, and strengthen roadway safety systems. Today, as President of LifeSafer, he has a key role in shaping the future of vehicle safety technology.

Bella Truong.....**SESSION:** *Big Rigs, Big Risk: How Enforcement of CDLs/CMVs Saves Lives*

Senior Attorney

National Traffic Law Center - National District Attorneys Association

Bella Truong is a Senior Attorney in the National District Attorneys Association's National Traffic Law Center. Her work involves matters relating to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Bella has a dozen years of multifaceted legal experience prior to joining NDAA, the majority of which she served as a prosecutor in both the Cumberland County District Attorney's Office (Fayetteville, NC) and the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (Tacoma, WA). She specialized in the prosecution of violent crime, special victim sexual assault and homicide cases. Additionally, she focused on traffic related and impaired driving cases for many years. She has also provided training and guidance for multidisciplinary teams, including training FBI agents on local laws dealing with human trafficking. Bella is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and the University of Kansas School of Law.

Ellen Walston.....**SESSION:** *Quick Wins with Quick Builds: Advancing Vision Zero through Pilot and Demonstration Projects*

Injury Prevention Program Coordinator/Safe Kids Pitt County Coordinator

ECU Health Medical Center

Ellen has been the injury prevention program coordinator and Safe Kids Pitt County coordinator for the Eastern Carolina Injury Prevention Program at ECU Health Medical Center since 2006. She received 5 awards from Safe Kids NC and has accepted 2 national and 2 state awards on behalf of the Greenville Traffic Safety Task Force. She has presented at Lifesavers Highway Safety Conferences, Safe States Conferences, Governor's Highway Safety Traffic Safety Expos, North Carolina Bike Walk Summits, Safe Kids Worldwide PREVCON Conferences, Governor's Highway Safety Association's Conferences, NC DOT Research and Innovation Conference and NC SITE Conferences, the Tennessee Lifesavers Conference, Georgia Highway Safety Office Conference, Kids In Motion Conference, and Safe Kids North Carolina Conferences. Ellen has written and managed over 2 million dollars in external funds for community child safety grants. Ellen has co-authored 2 publications in a hospital journal and the IACP Journal.

Andrew Webber.....**SESSION:** *Combating Street Takeovers through Direct Enforcement and Investigations*

Detective

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Det. Webber is the lead Det. for the CMPD STTF. Det. Webber has extensive knowledge and experience pertaining to the use of social media, undercover work and warrant application pertaining to street takeovers.

Alyson West.....**SESSION:** *Active Transportation for All: Strategies in Pedestrian and Bicycle Education*

Safe Routes to School Coordinator

Town of Chapel Hill Office of Mobility and Greenways

Alyson West (she/her) works at the Town of Chapel Hill as the Safe Routes to School Coordinator in the Planning Department's Office of Mobility and Greenways. She has a master's in city and regional planning from UNC-Chapel Hill and spent seven years at UNC's Highway Safety Research Center researching bicycle and pedestrian safety before coming to the Town. She lives in Carrboro, NC, with her teenage son, partner, some cats, and a shed full of bikes.

Ryan Westrom.....**SESSION:** *Data-Driven Strategies: From Hospital Records to Safety Action Plans*

Chief Strategy Officer

Citian

Ryan Westrom is Chief Strategy Officer for Citian, where he leads strategic direction for the company and its products. Previously, Ryan was head of Mobility Engagement within Ford Mobility's City Solutions group, with a focus on supporting AV testing and mobility pursuits. Before joining Ford, he was a transportation planner and engineer at the District Department of Transportation (or DDOT) in Washington, DC. A licensed Professional Engineer and certified Professional Transportation Planner, Ryan holds undergraduate degrees in civil engineering and urban planning from the University of Illinois and a Master of Science in Transportation from MIT and has nearly 25 years of experience in transportation.

Kevin Wiggins.....**SESSION:** *Combating Street Takeovers through Direct Enforcement and Investigations*

Sergeant

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Kevin Wiggins is currently assigned as the Sergeant over the CMPD Street Takeover Task Force. He has over 15 years of experience as an Officer with CMPD. My background includes patrol, street crimes, investigations, training officer and adjunct BLET GI instructor with specialized instruction in drivers training and first responder.

Alex Wilkins.....**SESSION:** *Combating Street Takeovers through Direct Enforcement and Investigations*

Deputy State Fire Marshal

Office of State Fire Marshal

Alex Wilkins serves with the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal, where he works with Safe Kids North Carolina to promote child passenger safety across the state. He has been with the agency for four years and previously served as a full-time firefighter with Fort Bragg. Alex has been a Certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician and Instructor for 10 years, providing education and hands-on support to families and communities. He is passionate about protecting children on the roadways and is dedicated to ensuring every child travels safely.

D'Nise Williams.....**SESSION:** *The Intersection of Psychology & Road Safety: The Impact of Emotional Regulation & Mental Health on Driver Decision Making*

Program Coordinator

East Carolina University Health Medical Center Injury Prevention Program

D'Nise Williams LCSWA, MSW, M.Ed. serves as the Teen Safe Driving Program Coordinator at ECU Health Medical Center. She has worked in this capacity since 2022. Prior to accepting this position, D'Nise worked with local law enforcement, military and mental health agencies in various capacities. She brings her love for mental health and research into her position as Teen Safe Driving Program Coordinator by making sure teens understand the importance of emotional preparation and readiness before getting behind the wheel. She has a Master's in Education and a Master's in Social Work.

Janice Williams.....**SESSION:** *Beyond the DWI: Understanding Alcohol, Impairment, and Safer Road Use*

Director Injury Prevention

Atrium Health

Janice Williams is the Injury Prevention Director at Atrium Health and has been involved in road safety efforts for 26 years in the region, helping the state as much as possible in every aspect of road safety.

Quentin Williams.....**SESSION:** *Law Enforcement Traffic Stop Safety: Saving Lives Together*

Founder & CEO

Dedication To Community (D2C)

M. Quentin Williams is the founder and CEO of Dedication to Community (D2C), the national nonprofit he established in 2012. Quentin's career in law, professional sports and leadership consulting culminates in D2C, which delivers skills-building workshops and ongoing forums to improve understanding and build relationships in communities through healing, reconciliation and unity. D2C experts work with government agencies and the private sector on leadership education and relationship-building tools, and advise on critical issues in public safety and law enforcement. An advocate, attorney and author-educator, Quentin is sought after as a speaker and thought leader who draws on his personal history as a former FBI agent and federal prosecutor, and also has held senior positions with the National Football League (NFL) and National Basketball Association (NBA). For more information, please visit <https://www.dedicationtocommunity.org/m-quentin-williams>

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