



August 29, 2008

The Honorable Mary E. Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Peters:

We are disturbed, as we know you are as well, about the recent FARS data that show a continuing increase in motorcyclist injuries and deaths. We believe that one of the vital components in efforts to reduce this toll is completion of the Motorcycle Crash Causation Study. We desperately want to get the crash causation study underway and would like to meet with you to discuss how we can move the study along and finally get it started.

A comprehensive in-depth motorcycle crash causation study was identified in the *National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety* (NAMS), published in November 2000, as one of the four highest priority "urgent" recommendations among 82 identified recommendations to increase motorcycle safety. Congress recognized the need for and value of the study when it included funding in SAFETEA-LU for the Oklahoma Transportation Center to conduct a comprehensive, in-depth motorcycle crash causation study that employs the common international methodology for in-depth motorcycle accident investigation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Unfortunately, after three years since passage of the legislation, the study has not yet begun.

Dr. Samir Ahmed from Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma Transportation Center would also like to attend the meeting to explain his efforts and frustration with the inability to move the study forward. Dr. Ahmed, a professor of civil engineering and principal investigator for the study at OSU has diligently tried to raise the funding required to complete the study, without which the study cannot be started.

As you know, MSF and the Motorcycle Industry Council have pledged a combined total of \$3 million in funding toward the study, well above the required 50% match for federal funding. Since the passage of SAFETEA-LU in 2005, which included an appropriation for FYs 2006 and 2007, the estimated cost of the study has continued to rise.

We are optimistic that together with DOT we can find a way to fund or find partners to provide the remaining funding needed to make the study a reality. More motorcyclists are dying each day that passes. The study is expected to take four years to complete. Had it begun when SAFETEA-LU was enacted, we would be well into the data collection phase and

the valuable information to be derived from such a study would be available in the near term. As it now stands, we don't know when, or even if, we will have this information from which to develop countermeasures to significantly reduce motorcyclist injuries and fatalities.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss options with you regarding how commencement of this critical motorcycle crash causation study might be achieved.

Sincerely,



Tim Buche
President



Kathy Van Kleeck
Senior Vice President

cc. David Kelly, Acting Administrator, NHTSA
Thomas J. Madison, Jr., Administrator, FHWA