

## WORDS OF WELCOME



The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

On behalf of President George W. Bush and the U.S. Government, it is my pleasure to extend an invitation to the 19th International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles, ESV2005. The United States is proud to host the 2005 conference, which comes at the conclusion of the year-long international focus on road safety launched on World Health Day 2004. The U.S. Department of Transportation has a long and proud history working cooperatively with foreign governments to share vehicle safety research findings in order to improve the safety of vehicle occupants globally.

Internationally more than one million human beings lose their lives every year because of traffic crashes. The costs are tremendous in terms of human lives and pain and suffering, as well as economic productivity and lost opportunities worldwide. Adding to the tragedy is the fact that so many of these deaths are preventable. In the United States, our central strategies for reducing transportation fatalities and injuries on our highways are to reduce alcohol-impaired driving, to increase safety belt use and to ensure that all vehicles meet the highest possible safety standards.

The ESV Conference is an important opportunity for the international community to work together to reduce the highway fatality rate. Please accept my best wishes for a successful conference and a most enjoyable stay in Washington, D.C.



The Honorable Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D.  
Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

I am very pleased to join the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation in inviting you to participate in the 19th International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles. It was in 1987 when the United States last hosted the ESV Conference.

The ESV2005 Conference theme, "The Evolution of Automobile Safety from Experimental to Enhanced Safety Vehicles: A Look at Over 30 Years of Progress," is a testament to our NHTSA mission to focus research activities on innovative safety technologies to keep motor vehicles and their occupants as safe as possible.

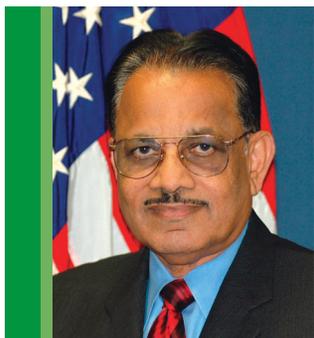
I look forward to the results of this conference and wish you an enjoyable visit to Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area.



Ronald L. Medford  
Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ESV Conferences are invaluable because they provide researchers, industry representatives and governments with an opportunity to share recent advances in motor vehicle safety and they encourage international cooperation on research projects. For more than 30 years, NHTSA has worked in partnership with the ESV participating Governments and International Organizations to improve the safety performance of automotive vehicles to save lives and prevent injuries.

As host for the 19th ESV Conference, our goal is to provide participants the most recent information on vehicle safety research through lectures, panel discussions, and exhibits. ESV attracts the top vehicle safety research scientists and engineers from Asia-Pacific, Europe, and North America. I look forward to the sharing of constructive information at the conference and I am sure you will find ESV2005 a most informative conference.



Joseph N. Kianthra, Ph.D.  
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety Research  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Chairperson, ESV Organizing Committee

It gives me great honor to welcome you to the 19th ESV Conference. From its beginning more than 30 years ago the ESV Program has kept pace with the advancements in vehicle safety. Today, more than ever, the motoring public's safety is of great importance. The vehicles are certainly safer, but the technologies incorporated in these vehicles have created a new set of vehicle/human performance challenges.

To this end, ESV2005 will explore research developments in enhancing the safety of vehicles through presentations in technical sessions, exhibits, and most importantly, your participation. For the first time, ESV will introduce a Student Safety Technology Design Competition to encourage the younger generation to become more engaged in vehicle safety research.

I would like to acknowledge the work of my Government Focal Point colleagues, and the Organizing Committee Members in planning what I am certain will be an inspiring conference agenda. We look forward to your participation in the conference while enjoying a visit to our Nation's Capital, a city with many superb museums, monuments, and art galleries. On behalf of the Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, I look forward to welcoming you to the 19th ESV Conference in beautiful, historic Washington, D.C.