

North Dakota Department of Transportation NEWS

608 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505-0700 Toll Free 1-855-NDROADS – 1-855-637-6237

June 21, 2016

For more information contact (701) 328-4559

June 19-25 declared Share the Road Safety Week in North Dakota

Today, Governor Jack Dalrymple has again signed a proclamation declaring the third week of June as “*North Dakota Share the Road Safety Week*.” During the week the state emphasizes safe driving practices among all road users and reminds motorists, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians that together they must share the road.

“The *North Dakota Share the Road Safety Week* is designed to promote the ideals of sharing our roads by developing and promoting collaborative measures focused on traffic safety to save lives and prevent injuries on North Dakota roads,” said Representative Gail Mooney, proclamation sponsor and representative of the North Dakota Active Transportation Alliance. “It’s also a dedication to recognize those who have been killed or injured in crashes involving motor vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, or pedestrians.”

Spouses and family members of Lisa Knudson and David Hawkinson, two North Dakota residents who were killed while riding their bikes in 2014, also led a pledge for driving distraction free with a Capitol Grounds Arboretum Trail Run/Walk.

“Two years ago today my husband, David Hawkinson, was on the home stretch of a 100 mile training bicycle ride in preparation for the Boulder IRONMAN Triathlon,” said his spouse, Amy Miller Hawkinson. “That morning he was struck from behind and killed by a distracted driver who was texting. If only that person would have been focusing on the road, sharing the road, and driving distraction free, my husband would still be here.”

The North Dakota Department of Transportation would like to remind travelers that all have responsibilities when it comes to safely sharing the road and encourages motorists and bicyclists to follow a few safety tips.

Motorists can share the road with bicyclists by following these tips:

- Obey traffic laws so you can be predictable to others.
- Allow at least three feet when passing a bicyclist. This may mean waiting and being patient to pass until it is safe to do so.
- Show common courtesy and respect on the road.
- Focus on the road and drive distraction free.
 - Texting while driving is prohibited for all drivers and is a primary law in ND
 - Drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from using any electronic communications devices, including cell phones

Bicyclists should follow these tips when riding:

- Obey traffic signs and signals. Bicycles must follow the rules of the road like any vehicle.
- Wear a helmet.
- Never ride against traffic. Motorists aren’t looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road.
- Follow lane markings and use hand signals.
- Use a light at night. The law requires a white headlight and a rear reflector or taillight at night.

In addition to pedestrians and bicyclists, motorists should be aware of motorcyclists. Motorcycles also have the same rights as others on the road and are also harder to see. Never crowd motorcyclists and always give them a full lane. Leave at least a four second following distance in case of an emergency or a sudden stop.

David Hawkinson’s crash memorial can be viewed on the [North Dakota Crash Memorial Wall](#), where families can create memorials for a loved one(s) killed in North Dakota traffic crashes.

Learn more about the efforts to reduce roadway deaths and serious injuries at ndcodefortheroad.org.

###