



Friday, June 17, 2005



## **Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker Addresses the New Jersey Motor Coach Association**

Last week, Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker addressed the New Jersey Motor Coach Association at their annual conference in Atlantic City, N.J. Mr. Rosenker spoke about technical safety developments that will affect the Motor Coach Industry and praised them for their safety record. According to the latest figures, the Motor Coach industry posts the least deaths per billion miles traveled of any of our modes of transportation. Rosenker also participated in the Association's awards ceremony honoring their safest drivers.



## **Chairman Designate Ellen Engleman Conners Honored at the National Business Travel Association Legislative Summit**

Chairman Designate Ellen Engleman Conners was recently honored with the National Business Travel Association's (NBTA) Founders' Award at the NBTA's Third Annual Legislative Summit in Washington, DC. The award is presented each year to a champion of the travel and transportation community. Previous awardees include Congressman Hal Rogers of Kentucky and Congressman Jim Oberstar of Minnesota. During her remarks, Engleman Conners stressed the importance of finding the common denominator between transportation safety and transportation security in the post-9/11 environment. She also focused her remarks on existing opportunities to bring down the number of highway fatalities and serious injuries, particularly those brought about by hard-core drunk drivers.

## **NTSB Visits the DaimlerChrysler's Innovation Symposium**

On June 8th, NTSB Board Members and staff took part in DaimlerChrysler's Innovation Symposium Ride & Drive event at RFK Stadium. Participants were given the opportunity to ride and drive in cars equipped with new safety technologies that will be implemented on future automobiles.



*(Left) Steve Blackistone, April Adams, Derrek Hofrichter and Member Dick Healing test-drove the new bionic, diesel-powered, concept car modeled after the Australian boxfish, which gets about 70 miles per gallon.*

## ***NTSB Holds Public Hearing for Pinnacle Accident that Occurred in Jefferson City, Missouri***



This week, the National Transportation Safety Board held a three-day public hearing on the October 2004 accident involving a Bombardier Regional Jet operated by Pinnacle Airlines, which crashed in a residential area in Jefferson City, Missouri, approximately three miles south of the Jefferson City airport. Impact forces and post crash fire destroyed the airplane and fatally injured the two crewmembers. There were no other passengers on board and no injuries transpired on the ground. Member Deborah A. P. Hersman chaired the hearing, which involved representatives from Bombardier, Pinnacle, FAA, Airline Pilots Association, General Electric, and Honeywell. The hearing focused on issues regarding aircraft and engine certification, as well as operator and FAA oversight of flight operations and crew training.

This public hearing marks the first time the Board has hosted a "paperless" public hearing where participants were provided electronic versions of relevant documents and exhibits on CD-rom. Bill English was the hearing coordinator; Lorenda Ward is the Investigator in Charge for the accident investigation.

## ***NTSB Welcomes New Employees***



Mr. Eric A. Albertson, Office Automation Clerk (Temp Student) in the Office of Safety Recommendations and Communications' Government and Industry Affairs.



Mr. Brandon Tanner, Computer Clerk in the Office of Research and Engineering, Information Technology Division, Computer and Network Services Branch.

## ***Update on Most Wanted Safety Recommendations***

Over the last two weeks, more progress has been made by State legislatures in adopting the Safety Board's "Most Wanted" State recommendations. Oklahoma adopted a three-stage graduated driver license (GDL) system for young drivers with both nighttime driving and teen passenger restrictions. The Governor of South Carolina allowed a primary safety belt enforcement bill to become law without signature. Twenty-two States and DC now permit primary enforcement of their seat belt law. A high BAC bill has been sent to Texas Governor Perry who is expected to sign it. Legislation to improve GDL in Nevada has been sent to Governor Guinn who is expected to sign the bill. The Pennsylvania House unanimously passed a flying while impaired bill that is consistent with the Board's recommendation (not on the "Most Wanted" list).