

NTSB

WEBINAR

Back-to-School Safety

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. ET



Biographies

MODERATOR



Sophia Peerzada, MPH
Transportation Safety Specialist
National Transportation Safety Board

Sophia Peerzada is a transportation safety specialist for the NTSB's Office of Safety Recommendations and Communications' Safety Advocacy division.

Prior to joining the NTSB in the Fall of 2023, she worked in various sectors, including nonprofit, private technology, university student affairs, and healthcare. Sophia has years of experience in public speaking, advocacy, project management, and program management.

Sophia holds both a bachelor's degree in psychology and behavioral healthcare and a master's degree in public health from the University of South Florida. As a lifelong resident of Tampa, Fla., she developed a passion for road safety in response to the region's high rates of roadway injuries and fatalities.

Applying her public health background, Sophia leads advocacy efforts on the safe system approach, pedestrian safety and the intersection of mental health and transportation safety.

PANELISTS



Kristin M. Poland, PhD
Deputy Director • Office of Highway Safety
National Transportation Safety Board

Dr. Poland is the Deputy Director in the Office of Highway Safety at the NTSB and serves in a leadership role over all investigations and product

development within the office, including those addressing collision avoidance, automated vehicle technologies, fatigue, impairment, medical fitness, vehicle design, and occupant protection. Through this role she has influenced the safety of numerous vehicles and systems and has testified before Congress on the federal role of

school bus safety. She has led multiple agency-wide working groups and continues to lead the NTSB's approach to partial and full highway vehicle automation. Previously, she served as the senior biomechanical engineer in the Vehicle Performance Division in the Office of Research and Engineering. She developed the NTSB methodology for occupant kinematics investigations; performed occupant kinematics simulations and injury causation analysis for numerous highway, rail, and aviation crashes. Dr. Poland has published multiple peer reviewed papers addressing many unique aspects of accident investigations and has served as a technical expert at multiple Board meetings, forums, and investigative hearings including the motorcycle forum, the aging driver forum, the child safety forum, the truck and bus safety forum, and the WMATA rail investigative hearing. Further, Dr. Poland led the Board's work to document and analyze accidents with 3D laser scanners and to develop models with the 3D printer. Dr. Poland earned several prestigious awards at the NTSB including the NTSB Managing Director's Award (2015), the NTSB Peer Award (2013) and the NTSB Dr. John K. Lauber Award for technical excellence (1999).

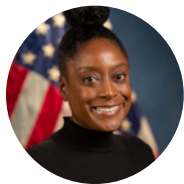


Meg Sweeney, PhD
Project Manager • Office of Highway Safety
National Transportation Safety Board

Meg Sweeney is a Project Manager in the National Transportation Safety Board's Office of Highway Safety. She has been involved with

several school bus investigations including an investigation of a vehicle collision with student pedestrians crossing a high-speed roadway to board a school bus that occurred in Rochester, Indiana and an investigation in Decatur, Tennessee of a collision between a service truck and school bus. Previously, she worked in the NTSB Safety Studies Division where she studied child restraint safety, multi-passenger van safety, and operator fatigue. Meg also worked at the Bureau of Transportation Statistics where she examined travel patterns and mobility issues for people with disabilities. She received her Ph.D. in Psychology from George Mason University.

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Brittany Rawlinson, PhD
Statistician
Office of Research and Engineering
National Transportation Safety Board

Brittany Rawlinson holds a Doctorate in Sociology and Masters of Public Administration from Florida State University, and a BA in Political Science from Presbyterian College. Brittany joined the NTSB in 2020 as a statistician in the Office of Research and Engineering's Safety Research Division. In her role, she is responsible for designing, planning, and conducting transportation safety research studies, providing statistical and data analysis support during accident investigations, compiling, and publishing annual accident statistics, and developing safety recommendations and reports.

She is also a subject matter expert on Vulnerable Road Users and serves as the Chair of the NTSB's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council.



Steven Prouty, PE
Highway Accident Investigator (IIC)
Office of Highway Safety
National Transportation Safety Board

MMr. Prouty is an Investigator-in-Charge (IIC) in the National Transportation Safety Board's Office of Highway Safety. Prior to being selected as an IIC, Steve served as both a senior highway factors investigator and senior vehicle factors investigator. He has nearly 14 years of experience with the NTSB and has participated in numerous major investigations involving highway vehicles including school busses, large trucks and automobiles as well as tunnels, and bridges. Steve worked as a Trooper with the Wisconsin State Patrol for 11 years before joining the NTSB. He spent most of those years as a member of the State Patrol's Technical Reconstruction Unit, where he was responsible for the investigation and analysis of serious collisions and crime scenes throughout Wisconsin. Steve earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Wisconsin System. He is a registered professional engineer and is also fully accredited by ACTAR, the Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstruction.

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