



**Testimony from the DC chapter of Families for Safe Streets
for the Committee on Transportation and the Environment
performance oversight hearing for the Department of Motor Vehicles
held on February 11, 2026**

To the Committee on Transportation and the Environment:

My name is Sam Trumbull and I am testifying on behalf of the [DC chapter of Families for Safe Streets](#). Families for Safe Streets is comprised of people who have lost loved ones, been injured, or care for someone who was injured in traffic violence. Every crash destroys families, and tears at the fabric of our communities. Crashes are preventable. These are not "accidents" — and the problems that cause them have proven solutions. No death or life-altering injury in a traffic crash is acceptable.

I know this firsthand.

My crash — caused by a presumably drunk driver who was on the way home from a football game — broke my leg in two places, fractured and displaced my pelvis, broke my thumb, knocked out three of my teeth, and left me permanently physically disabled.

If you've ever been in a crash, you know the back-and-forth with your insurer over what's covered, what deductibles apply, and what they won't pay. Now imagine doing that from a hospital bed, awake only a few hours a day, while facing life-altering injuries and enormous medical bills.

Solutions to prevent crashes in DC are not rocket science, but somehow, some District agencies are struggling to deliver. DC Families for Safe Streets worked hard to support, pass, and fully fund the [Strengthening Traffic Enforcement, Education, and Responsibility \(STEER\) Amendment Act of 2024](#). We thank the Council, and particularly the Chair of this committee, for their instrumental support to save lives with the STEER Act.

It appears from the DMV's pre-hearing responses that the bulk of the work to implement has already been completed and they are on the cusp of completion. Timely implementation of the ISA program and the other changes made by the STEER Act are the best chance that any of our members have at justice for the crimes committed against them and their loved ones. ISA technology can prevent vehicles from exceeding speed limits, intervening before crashes happen and protecting drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists alike. The District's law to implement

this program is a vital step towards allowing drivers to stay licensed and maintain daily routines while ensuring compliance with speed limits. It protects everyone on the road without burdening responsible drivers, making it a balanced, commonsense safeguard.

In my own crash, where the driver was exceeding the speed limit by 20 miles per hour, ISA would have reduced the likelihood of my death from 50% to 10%. As one of the few members of DC Families for Safe Streets who actually had criminal charges leveled against the person who hit me, you can imagine my dismay that the highest penalty the judge could impose was a mere \$1100 fine (that went to the city, not to me), and a year of supervised probation. We all hope for justice through the justice system, but for those of us who have lost someone or lost a part of ourselves, the only justice is to ensure that this does not happen again. We are thrilled to hear that the Department of Motor Vehicles is ready to implement this technology, and look forward to hearing about its progress.

As Councilmember Allen clarified, some of the implementation steps were awaiting conforming legislation, which was passed in early February. However, several of the provisions related to impaired driving were delayed until 2027. We are concerned that in an especially tight budget season these life-saving changes, which are relatively inexpensive compared to many other interventions, will be delayed even further. We are counting on the Council to ensure this doesn't happen, and to prioritize the needless deaths and injuries of more people in the District.

Thank you for your continued service to this issue and we are available for consultation at any time.