

# PHASE Act - H.R. 6111

## Pedestrian Hazard Awareness & Safety Expansion Act



### WHAT IT IS →

The Pedestrian Hazard Awareness and Safety Expansion Act of 2023 or “PHASE” Act will require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Secretary of Transportation to work together to develop potential solutions using innovative technologies that better protect vulnerable road users from roadway crashes and unnecessary fatalities.

### WHAT IT DOES →

- Requires the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technologies to explore technological solutions to improve safety features and traffic control devices to equip vehicle drivers and bicyclists to better protect themselves and pedestrians.
- Requires the Department of Transportation to study urban areas where pedestrian fatalities due to road crashes occur most frequently or have increased, and develop physical alternatives to better protect vulnerable road users. Studies could also include intelligent speed systems and blind spot detection for the impact on vulnerable road user safety.
- Requires the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for cities, municipalities, and Indian Tribes to implement infrastructure that improves vulnerable road user safety.

## WHY IT MATTERS

- Fatalities from transportation systems are increasing, and nearly 95% of those fatalities occur on streets, roads, and highways. In 2021, 42,939 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes, of which 7,388 were walking.  
Source: [www.transportation.gov/NRSS/SafetyProblem](http://www.transportation.gov/NRSS/SafetyProblem)
- The costs of bicycle crashes, including injuries and fatalities, can exceed \$23 billion each year when considering health care costs, lost work productivity, and estimated cost for lives lost.  
Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/bicycle/index.html>
- To promote climate-friendly travel alternatives, like walking and bicycling, creating safer roads is critical. Walkers and cyclists suffer disproportionately from serious injuries and fatalities when a crash occurs. In the past decade, fatalities among pedestrians and bicyclists have been increasing faster than roadway fatalities overall, which will discourage choosing climate-friendly transportation options.  
Source: <https://www.transportation.gov/NRSS/SafetyEquityClimate>

**SUPPORT THE “PHASE” ACT TO PROTECT VULNERABLE ROAD USERS FROM ROADWAY CRASHES AND UNNECESSARY FATALITIES.**

## CO-SPONSOR THIS BILL

The bill, HR 6111, is sponsored by Representative Norma Torres (D-CA). To Co-Sponsor please contact Clara Tibbetts at [Clara.Tibbetts@mail.house.gov](mailto:Clara.Tibbetts@mail.house.gov)

