

December 8, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As consortium members of the Collaborative Sciences Center for Road Safety (CSCRS), a U.S. Department of Transportation-funded University Transportation Center (UTC), we send this letter to express our full support for the appointment of Dr. Mary "Missy" Cummings as a senior advisor for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Dr. Cummings's extensive background was impressive when she joined our UTC team as a researcher in 2016, and her excellent work has continued for CSCRS, including:

- safety testing for connected and automated vehicles through physical and digital iterative deployment;
- using smartphone-based alerts to warn crossing pedestrians;
- exploring operations concepts for autonomous vehicle dispatch centers; and
- utilizing machine learning techniques to design system safety countermeasures.

The projects led by Dr. Cummings have already been impactful in myriad ways, as documented in our CSCRS research products and progress reports.

Dr. Cummings has demonstrated time and time again a deep understanding of sound science and the core principles of Safe Systems, making her a perfect choice to inform policies on advanced driver assistance technologies, human-automation interaction, and other important developments that impact road safety.

We are proud of the work that Dr. Cummings has done with CSCRS, at Duke University, and beyond, and are excited about how she can prioritize safety on our nation's roadways in her new role at NHTSA. Thank you for appointing someone with the expertise and passion necessary to infuse the imperative focus on safety into transportation conversations and policies across the country.

Sincerely,

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