

Transportation Safety Board Chair Jennifer Homendy's Comments on the Safety of Electric Vehicles

At the Transportation Research Board Annual meeting on January 11, 2023, Transportation Safety Board Chair Jennifer Homendy expressed concern about the weight of electric vehicles. Her statement was as follows:

"I want to take a second and mention that I'm concerned about the increased risk of severe injury and death for all road users from heavier curb weights and increasing size, power, and performance of vehicles on our roads, including electric vehicles."

"A GMC Hummer EV weighs over 9,000 pounds, up from about 6,000 pounds. Its gross vehicle weight rating is a staggering 10,550 pounds. The battery pack alone weighs over 2,900 pounds – about the weight of a Honda Civic. The Ford F-150 Lightning is between 2,000 and 3,000 pounds heavier than the non-electric version. The Mustang Mach-E, Volvo XC40 EV, and RAV4 EV are all roughly 33% heavier. That has a significant impact on safety for all road users."

"Now I want to be clear: I'm inspired by the Administration's commitment to phasing out carbon emissions. We do have a climate crisis that needs to be addressed. The U.S. transportation sector accounts for the largest portion of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and I firmly believe it is a human right to breathe clean air."

"But we have to be careful that we aren't also creating unintended consequences: more death on our roads. Safety, especially when it comes to new transportation policies and new technologies, cannot be overlooked."