

Write a personal safe driving pledge outlining your commitment to responsible driving habits. Explain how you will promote safe driving in your community.

Having worked as a support intern for summer engineering in 2024 with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), I now know firsthand the importance of safety in everyday life. Safety at TxDOT is more than a policy—safety is a core value. Every day began with a safety meeting to remind everyone of the importance of being vigilant and looking out for one another. This experience taught me a deep appreciation of road safety, and I have committed myself to advocating for safe driving in my neighborhood.

One of the scariest facts that I found out working at TxDOT is that there has been a fatality on Texas roads every day since November 7, 2000. About ten individuals lose their lives on our roads every single day. This heartbreaking reality is what compels TxDOT's "End the Streak" campaign initiative to stop roadway fatalities by educating motorists to become better drivers. I strongly endorse this action and have embraced its message.

The program encourages individuals to pledge to drive safely, including staying distraction-free, obeying traffic laws, never driving under the influence, keeping seatbelts on, keeping an eye on weather conditions, and encouraging safe driving among peers. Participants pledge to abstain from texting and using social media and to observe speed limits, stop signs, and traffic lights. They also pledge to encourage safe driving among family and friends.

Aside from my commitment, I am also committed to promoting safe driving habits within my community. I will keep promoting the message of the "End the Streak" campaign to my relatives and friends, emphasizing the impact of unsafe driving choices. I will also promote organizations that promote road safety, such as those that educate individuals on distracted driving and the impact of driving under the influence. Sean Carter's testimony on the dangers of impaired driving—a vivid account of how a single poor decision changed his life forever—is a reminder that accidents as a result of distraction can have consequences that cannot be reversed. In sharing such real-life experiences, I hope to urge others to take safety more seriously.

Last, reaching zero fatalities on Texas roads is a collective responsibility. By holding myself accountable and encouraging others to drive safely, I believe we can truly make a difference in breaking the streak of daily highway fatalities. My pledge is not solely one of personal responsibility—it is one of keeping safe, the lives of everyone who uses the roads, and encouraging others to do so as well.