Dear Highway Safety Advocate:

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety is pleased to present the 2005 edition of the *South Carolina Traffic Collision Fact Book.* It has been produced by our Office of Highway Safety. This report contains information and statewide statistical data regarding traffic crashes, deaths and injuries. Comprising over 130 pages, this report covers a wide range of information and should serve as a valuable tool for law enforcement, legislators, traffic safety advocates and others striving to improve highway safety in our state.

South Carolina's highway safety community must vigorously continue the effort to make our highways the safest in our country. I challenge you and others who use the highways to be safety oriented. This means that safety belt use must be dramatically increased; education regarding compliance with legislation addressing child restraint systems must be conducted on a widespread basis; safely sharing the road with commercial motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and others must be emphasized; and driving under the influence must be stopped. The highway safety message must be carried to everyone throughout the state. Above all, we must drive responsibly, courteously and defensively and abide by our laws at all times.

Information about these crashes, such as presented in the tables in this report, will help us better understand the highway safety problems in South Carolina and develop effective solutions.

With your support and assistance, South Carolina can continue to make a positive difference in the area of highway safety. Lives can – and will – be saved!

Sincerely,

James K. Schweitzer
Director