According to the Federal Highway Administration…….. Reducing fatalities on rural roads remains a major challenge in the United States. In 2016, 18,590 lives were lost on rural roads—more than half of all traffic deaths—even though only 19 percent of the population lives in rural areas of the U.S.A.

70 percent of all public road mileage meet “rural” definition
NYS VTL § 153. Traffic control devices. All signs, signals, markings, and devices not inconsistent with this chapter placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic.
Many of the MENNONITE’s and AMISH come from Lancaster County in Pennsylvania, famed for its population of "plain people." The greatest catalyst for their migration has been the price of farmland, which is much cheaper in other states.

Vulnerable users of the highways driven on by the “English.”
Wisconsin Headline – drunken driver kills buggy operator and his son

Horse and buggy crashes have killed 23 in Pennsylvania from 2007 – 2016 say DOT

Amish follow most law, but sometimes their religious convictions can make legal compliance very challenging. These plain religious sects often involve horse and buggies as the means of travel and are involved in hundreds of crashes and the majority of the time the buggy operator is not at fault for the crash.

SMV CRASH DATA / STATISTICS VERY CHALLENGING

BUGGY CRASHES occur primarily
• 56% During daylight
• 50% on straight roadways
• 61% at intersections
• 80% rear end crashes
• 84% under no adverse weather conditions
• Typical cause listed as “following too close”
**Closure Collision time**

55 MPH

400 feet

27 sec.

55 MPH

400 feet

7 sec.

55 MPH

400 feet

5.7 sec.

45 mph

15 mph

7 mph
REQUIRED ON ANY VEHICLE THAT TRAVELS LESS THAN 25 MPH.
Illegal to use in any other manner – NYS VTL 375-36 c (violation)
Local “lug” laws are not constitutional in some states.
Yates County Mennonite farm tractor-wagon – 1 fatality and several injured. Steel lugs on new macadam – steep hill and overloaded wagon!
ONE OF THE WORST SMV CRASHES IN NEW YORK STATE OCCURRED IN YATES COUNTY
7/19/2011

KILLED, 10 INJURED IN ‘HORRIFIC’ CRASH

Penn Yan man charged with DWI, criminally negligent homicide after passing large tractor on curve
SMV TRACTOR CAR & VAN COLLISION

6 killed
10 injured
1 dog killed
1 uninjured
1 arrested
Vehicular Homicide
STUDENT DRIVER EDUCATION
SMV’s Sharing the Roadways

• 5 times more likely to be a fatal whenever a crash
• Speed difference with approaching vehicle – rear collision as the gap is often misjudged. Knowing closure times very important
• Lack of safety equipment and vehicle protection
• Most shoulders not wide enough to accommodate the SMV – Wider shoulders benefit.
• Many motorist lacks patience for clear view passing
• More lighting and reflective markings at night needed
• Heavily traveled areas need warning signage, pavement markings, or technology.
• Rural roads offer less width to maneuver, loose gravel, blind hills and curves.
• SMV’s generally more encountered May to Oct. during harvest and buggies/bicycles Saturday eve or Sundays.
• Educate our new drivers about SMV’s

80% SMV’S STRUCK FROM BEHIND BY VEHICLE DRIVEN TOO CLOSE AND OR TOO FAST FOR CONDITIONS