

INTERVIEW WITH DETRAN'S GENERAL
DIRECTOR, **MARCELO GUEDES**
SPEED AT THE HEART OF ROAD
SAFETY IN **BRAZIL**



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Interview with Detran's general director,

Marcelo Guedes

Speed at the heart of Road Safety in Brazil

Who are you?

I am Marcelo Lima Guedes, graduated in Law, with 13 years of practice in the legal profession. I have worked as a prosecutor in city halls and town councils, as well as acting as legal coordinator in the State Secretariat of Communication.

Can you tell us your story related to the speed factor?

Once on my way out to work, I saw that my neighbors were leaving with their children for class. The street is usually busy in the morning and when the car turned around, another vehicle that was speeding in the lane almost collided with the one they were in. Due to the driver's reflex a serious accident did not happen, but the vehicle with the family also tried to turn and ended up colliding with a motorcycle parked on the curb. In the city where I live (Belém), speeding is still one of the main risk factors to life.

What were the consequences for the person (s) involved in the accident and for the community?

Besides the fear experienced those who live in the area were more careful when driving. They were afraid that an accident might occur due to the irresponsibility of other drivers when traffic is calm. The spot where the accident happened and at that time of the day the traffic is usually calm. They also increased their attention to the use of seat belts and car seats, which is what prevented the passengers from suffering any type of serious injury.

What could make a difference in the future in terms of safer traffic?

More sense of collective responsibility, which is what was lacking in this situation. Although there



are responsible drivers, drivers still lack the notion that traffic is a plural environment and that it is not only their own lives that can be endangered. In this sense, educational campaigns addressing this issue are essential.

What is your wish for this United Nations Week for Road Safety regarding the reduction of the speed limit in your country? What would your message be?

A lot of research has shown that lower speeds in traffic are safer. So, I hope people will realize that speeding kills and that there is no need to drive faster than the speed limit.

How can the United Nations Road Safety Fund leverage resources and mobilize the authorities in terms of road safety?

Through educational campaigns, investments in traffic engineering, as well as the acquisition of electronic equipment that guides and monitors speed on roads and highways, and indicates whether the driver is fit to drive without jeopardizing road safety, such as the breathalyzer, for example.

Carlos Eduardo Vilaça
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This project aims to contribute to decreasing road traffic deaths and injuries by means of technical assistance to support and to strengthen ongoing road traffic enforcement activities and enhancing the capacity of a core group of traffic officers at the state level.



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See the video [here](#)

