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Description of document: Department of Transportation (DOT) Inspector General (OIG) response to a Congressional request for "agency"-specific information on climate change, 2013

Requested date: 04-August-2013

Released date: 13-December-2013

Posted date: 17-November-2014

Source of document: Department of Transportation Inspector General  
FOIA Requester Service Center  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., 7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20590  
Fax: 202-366-1975 (Attn: FOIA Requester Service Center)

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**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**  
Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General  
Washington, D.C. 20590

December 13, 2013

RE: FOIA Control No: FI-2013-0112

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated August 4, 2013, sent to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of the Inspector General (OIG). You requested a copy of the “documents and/or any other response provided to the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change in response to their February 25, 2013 letter request to the OIG.”

The attached two page letter is responsive to your request and we are providing all pages to you without redaction. This letter closes your FOIA request and no further action is contemplated regarding this matter. The FOIA gives you the right to appeal adverse determinations to the appeal official for the agency. The appeal official for the OIG is the Assistant Inspector General, Brian A. Dettelbach. Any appeal must be submitted within 30 days after you receive this letter.

Any appeal should contain all facts and arguments that you propose warrant a more favorable determination. Please reference the file number above in any correspondence. Appeals to Mr. Dettelbach should be prominently marked as a “FOIA Appeal” addressed to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor West (J3), 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. **See** 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions regarding this message, please contact me at either (202) 366-6131 or by email at [angel.simmons@oig.dot.gov](mailto:angel.simmons@oig.dot.gov) and reference the FOIA control number above. You may also contact our FOIA Public Liaison, David Wonnemberg, at either (202)366-1544 or [david.wonnemberg@oig.dot.gov](mailto:david.wonnemberg@oig.dot.gov) to discuss any aspect of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angel Simmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Angel" being more prominent than the last name "Simmons".

Angel Simmons  
OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Officer



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

The Inspector General

Office of Inspector General  
Washington, D.C. 20590

February 28, 2013

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight, Senate  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward Markey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, Senate  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Whitehouse and Cardin and Ranking Members Waxman and Markey:

Thank you for your February 25, 2013 letter requesting that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) provide no later than March 29, 2013 an assessment of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) efforts to reduce climate change.

Specifically, your request consisted of two parts, asking first that we: (1) identify existing requirements in legislation, regulation, executive order, or other directives; (2) assess whether DOT is meeting its requirements; and (3) make recommendations to improve its performance. In the second part of your request, you asked that we assess: (1) the authorities DOT has to reduce emissions of heat-trapping pollution; (2) DOT's authority to make the nation more resilient to the effects of climate change; and (3) the most effective additional steps DOT could take to reduce emissions or strengthen resiliency.

As you may be aware, the OIG has increasingly limited resources to conduct reviews of departmental programs and operations given the current fiscal climate. As a result, we are leveraging all our available resources to focus on our primary mission, which is to support Congress and the Department in achieving a safe, efficient and effective transportation system. Accordingly, we regret that we will be unable to provide the level of review requested within the scope or timeframe of your request. However, since the policy issues outlined in your letter may be better suited for direct response by DOT, we are respectfully forwarding your correspondence to the Department for their consideration and response.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at (202) 366-1959 or Nathan Richmond, Director and Counsel for Congressional and External Affairs, at (202) 493-0422.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calvin L. Scovel III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Calvin L. Scovel III  
Inspector General

cc: Polly Trottenberg, Under Secretary for Policy, DOT