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Description of document: Department of Transportation (DOT) Weekly Departmental Reports ("Weekly White House Reports"), February - April, 2009

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**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

GENERAL COUNSEL

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 28, 2010

File No. **FY 2009-135**

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 9, 2009. You requested a copy of each Weekly Departmental Report for the Department of Transportation (also known as the "Weekly White House Report") produced between January 1, 2009 and May 1, 2009.

We were able to locate weekly reports for the period February 2, 2009 through April 27, 2009.

Pursuant to the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, enclosed are the requested records, with three exceptions. Names of individuals on one page are being withheld under FOIA Exemption 7(C). The release of the names, which are part of a law enforcement file, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The information is therefore properly withheld under FOIA Exemption 7(C). 5 U.S.C. § 552(7)(C) and 49 CFR 7.13(c)(7) (iii).

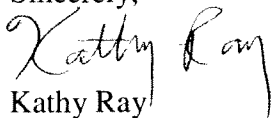
The other two redactions involve items under the heading "Potential or Expected Legal Issues." In both instances, we have determined that release of this particular information at this time could reasonably be expected to cause harm to the deliberative process and that this type of frank, deliberative information will not likely be freely shared in the future. The information is therefore properly being withheld pursuant to FOIA Exemption 5. 5 U.S.C. § 552(5) and 49 CFR 7.13(c)(5).

I am the person responsible for this determination. If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may appeal to Rosalind A. Knapp, Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590. An appeal must be made in writing and be submitted within 30 days after you received

this determination. It should contain any information and argument you wish to rely on and the envelope in which the appeal is sent should be prominently marked "FOIA Appeal." The Deputy General Counsel's determination will be administratively final.

I apologize for the extreme delay in responding to your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Ray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathy Ray
FOIA Officer

Enclosures

Department of Transportation
For the Week of February 2, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with NATCA***
On Tuesday, February 3, Secretary LaHood will meet with National Air Traffic Controllers Association President Pat Forrey in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman Halvorson***
On Tuesday, February 3, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman Halvorson (D-IL) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman Blumenauer***
On Tuesday, February 3, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman Blumenauer (D-OR) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman Rogers***
On Wednesday, February 4, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman Rogers (R-AL) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Wyden***
On Wednesday, February 4, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Wyden (D-OR) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman LaTourette***
On Thursday, February 5, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator LaTourette (R-OH) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Attend National Prayer Breakfast***
On Thursday, February 5, Secretary LaHood will attend the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***
On Wednesday, February 4, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation will hold a hearing on international piracy on the high seas. MARAD Acting Administrator James Caponiti will testify.
- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Meet with Rutgers University Delegation***
On Wednesday, February 11, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will meet with a delegation from Rutgers University's Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

in Washington, DC. The delegation and DOT officials will discuss the Department's Web 2.0 activities.

- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***
On Wednesday, February 11, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009. Lynne Osmus, FAA Acting Deputy Administrator, and DOT Inspector General Calvin Scovel will testify.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

- ***Bob Rivkin Offered Position as DOT General Counsel***
In vetting.
- ***Roy Kienitz Offered Position as DOT Undersecretary for Policy***
In vetting.
- ***Dana Gresham Offered Position as DOT Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs***
In vetting.
- ***Candidate interviews are ongoing, with several scheduled for next week.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***RITA Data Release***
On February 11, the Transportation Services Index (TSI) for December 2008 will be released. On February 12, Airline Traffic Data for November 2008 will be released. On February 18, Passenger Airline Employment Data for December 2008 will be released. On March 3, North American Surface Freight Data for November 2008 will be released.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Illinois Media***
On Friday, January 30, Secretary LaHood will be interviewed live on WMBD radio in Peoria to discuss his transition from Congressman to Transportation Secretary. He will also hold a media availability the same day with Illinois media also to discuss his transition and to announce the setting up of the Department's economic recovery team. Finally, also the same day, the Secretary will be interviewed on WEEK-TV in Peoria. Anticipated outcome: Positive.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

Nothing significant to report

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

Nothing significant to report

Point of Contact: For the weekend of February 6-8, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of February 9, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to Attend Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Dinner***
On February 9, Secretary LaHood will attend the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission dinner hosted by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Canadian Ambassador***
On February 10, Secretary LaHood will meet with Canadian Ambassador Michael Wilson in Washington, DC. The Ambassador wants to congratulate the Secretary on his confirmation.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Joint Transportation and Infrastructure Committee***
On February 10, Secretary LaHood will have a meeting with the Chairman, Ranking Chairman, Full Committee and Sub Committees of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in Washington, DC.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Have Lunch with Secretary Donovan***
On February 10, Secretary LaHood will have lunch with Secretary Donovan in Washington, DC to discuss issues of mutual interest.
- ***Secretary LaHood to host State Transportation Secretaries Forum***
On February 11, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and Secretary LaHood will host the State Transportation Secretaries to discuss the upcoming Economic Recovery Act in Washington, DC.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Meet with Rutgers University Delegation***
On February 11, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will meet with a delegation from Rutgers University's Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy in Washington, DC. The delegation and DOT officials will discuss the Department's Web 2.0 activities.
- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***
On February 11, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009. Lynne Osmus, FAA Acting Deputy Administrator, and DOT Inspector General Calvin Scovel will testify.
- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***

On February 24, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on the US Airways Flight 1549 accident. Lynne Osmus, FAA Acting Deputy Administrator, has been invited to testify.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***RITA Data Release***

On February 11, the Transportation Services Index (TSI) for December 2008 will be released. On February 12, Airline Traffic Data for November 2008 will be released. On February 18, Passenger Airline Employment Data for December 2008 will be released. On March 3, North American Surface Freight Data for November 2008 will be released. On March 11, the Transportation Services Index (TSI) for January 2009 will be released. On March 12, Airline Traffic Data for December 2008 will be released.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- ***Secretary LaHood to be Interviewed on CNN***

On February 6, Secretary LaHood will be interviewed by John King for the CNN Program "State of the Union with John King." Expected outcome: Positive.

- ***Secretary LaHood to be Interviewed by Mort Kondracke***

On February 17, Secretary LaHood will be interviewed by Mort Kondracke. Expected outcome: Positive.

- Fred Jandt at *Mass Transit* magazine called to ask about former Administrator Joe Boardman's appointment as President and CEO of Amtrak and his replacement for a future cover story. We referred him to Amtrak Corporate Communications and the White House Press Office. Expected outcome: Positive.

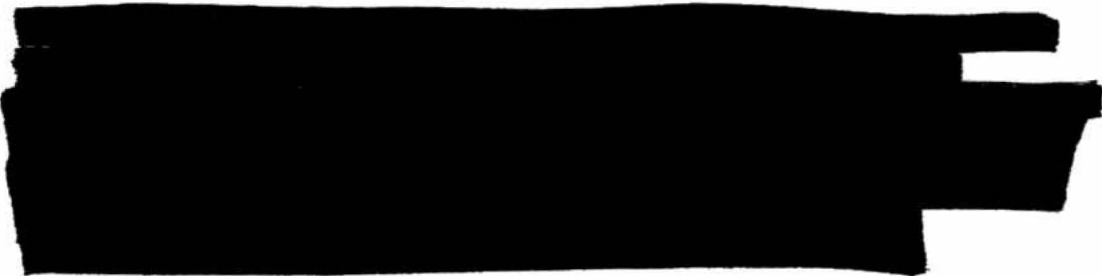
REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- From October 2008 through January 2009, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) closed out a number of contract actions resulting in the recovery of \$2 million in funds to the U.S. Treasury.
- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently launched the FOIA Electronic Reading Room webpage, which contains categories of documents specifically identified by the Freedom of Information Act at 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(2). This action was taken to improve customer service and allow for an easier method of navigation on the external website.
- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has begun a redesign of their external and internal websites. The purpose of this redesign is to provide easier access to

information and improve customer service. FTA anticipates the launch of both websites in the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2010.

- In October 2008, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) designated a new FOIA Program Manager to actively address the backlog of PHMSA FOIA requests dating back to 1995. Since October, 221 FOIA requests have been closed out of a total of 241 open requests.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of February 13-15, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of February 16, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Secretary Napolitano***
On February 17, Secretary LaHood will call Secretary Napolitano to discuss issues of mutual interest.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Coast Guard Commandant***
On February 17, Secretary LaHood will meet with Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad W. Allen in Washington, DC.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Superintendent of United States Merchant Marine Academy***
On February 19, Secretary LaHood will meet with USSMA Superintendent Rear Admiral Allen B. Worley in Washington, DC.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Meet with Rutgers University Delegation***
On Wednesday, February 18, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will deliver remarks at the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. The CGA promotes preventing damage to underground infrastructure through shared responsibility among all stakeholders.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congresswoman Tauscher***
On February 24, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman Tauscher (D-CA) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman DeFazio***
On February 24, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman DeFazio (D-OR) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman Hare***
On February 25, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman Hare (D-IL) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Byrd***
On February 25, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Byrd (D-WV) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Warner***

On February 25, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Warner (D-VA) in Washington, D.C.

- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Wyden***

On February 26, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Wyden (D-OR) in Washington, D.C.

- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***

On Tuesday, February 24, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on the US Airways Flight 1549 accident. Lynne Osmus, FAA Acting Deputy Administrator, has been invited to testify.

- **Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator to Lead Meeting in London** – The Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator will lead the industry focused working group in London on February 26th-27th to address piracy. The output of the meeting will be addressed by the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) at the United Nations in March as part of the implementation of United Nations Security Resolution 1851. There are a total of four working groups. The United States is leading the working group to strengthen shipping industry self-awareness and other capabilities to address piracy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***Security Breach Involves Sensitive Personnel Data***

FAA had a security breach of an FAA administrative server in Los Angeles the week of Feb. 2 that involved files containing sensitive FAA personnel data. One of the files contained information on more than 45,000 employees and retirees who were on FAA rolls as of the first week of February 2006. Medical information from the hacked files was encrypted and not identifiable.

FAA is moving swiftly to identify short-term and long-term measures, procedural and technological – to prevent such incidents from recurring. Meantime, the agency will provide credit monitoring services to all affected employees to help prevent others from using their personal data.

FAA officials alerted employee representatives and began sending letters to all current and former employees who are affected. Agency officials also briefed Members of Congress and notified the news media. In addition to posting information in the form of FAQs on the employee and public web sites, the FAA also set up a toll-free hotline to answer employee calls related to the security breach.

- ***FAA To Host its 34th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference***

FAA is preparing to host the 34th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference to be held March 31 - April 1 at the Washington Convention Center. This premier event attracts aviation leaders from across the industry to discuss issues facing aviation today and

into the future. This year's theme is "Confronting New Realities: Energy, Economics, and Efficiency. Besides unveiling the new FAA forecasts, several panels composed of industry, academic, and government representatives will delve into the various aspects of these issues.

- ***Upcoming RITA Data Releases***

North American Surface Freight Data for November 2008 will be released March 3. The Transportation Services Index (TSI) for January 2009 will be released March 11. Airline Traffic Data for December 2008 will be released on March 12. Passenger Airline Employment Data for January 2009 will be released March 17.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- ***Secretary LaHood to be Interviewed by Mort Kondracke***

On February 17, Secretary LaHood will be interviewed by Mort Kondracke. Expected outcome: Positive.

- ***FAA Alerts News Media About Security Breach***

Feb. 9, agency officials briefed employee representative and members of Congress, and notified the news media about the security/privacy breach cited at the top of this report. In addition, information in the form of FAQs was posted on the employee and public web sites, and a toll-free hotline to answer employee calls related to the security breach was established. We expect news media interest to be high because of the inherent interest in security/privacy lapses and because some unions will promote increased media focus on the issue.

- ***Pilot/Controller Conversation in USAirways Accident Draws Strong Media Interest***

Last week's release of the air traffic control tapes and transcripts for the January 15, 2009 USAirways accident in which the pilot had to land the aircraft in the Hudson River drew strong media and public interest. The website received 80,000 hits within one hour of posting the material at 10 a.m. and 230,000 hits by 5:00 p.m. that same day.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- The Maritime Administration is developing a CFO Office intranet site (Sharepoint) to better facilitate the dissemination of financial information to support program management and transparency.
- During the week of February 2, NHTSA completed nine contract close outs resulting in \$115 thousand de-obligated.
- On January 29, NHTSA held its semi-annual National Child Passenger Safety Board meeting using Webinar technology instead of requiring personnel travel. The cost

savings are estimated to be approximately \$1,000.

- FTA recently launched the FOIA Electronic Reading Room webpage, which contains categories of documents specifically identified by the Freedom of Information Act at 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(2). This action was taken to improve customer service and allow for an easier method of navigation on the external website.
- FTA has begun a redesign of its' external and internal websites. The purpose of this redesign is to provide easier access to information and improve customer service. FTA anticipates the launch of both websites in the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2010.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of February 16-18, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of February 23, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to Keynote AASHTO Meeting***
On February 24, Secretary LaHood will deliver the keynote address at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' luncheon in Washington, DC. His remarks will focus on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Speak to ATA.***
On February 24, Secretary LaHood will speak at a meeting of the American Trucking Association in Washington, DC.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congresswoman Tauscher***
On February 24, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman Tauscher (D-CA) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman DeFazio***
On February 24, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman DeFazio (D-OR) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Address Tulsa Chamber of Commerce***
On February 25, Secretary LaHood will speak to members of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC. The meeting was arranged at the request of Sen. James Inhofe.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman Hare***
On February 25, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman Hare (D-IL) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Byrd***
On February 25, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Byrd (D-WV) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Warner***
On February 25, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Warner (D-VA) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Wyden***
On February 26, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Wyden (D-OR) in Washington, D.C.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***

On Tuesday, February 24, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on the US Airways Flight 1549 accident. Lynne Osmus, FAA Acting Deputy Administrator, has been invited to testify.

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- ***Upcoming RITA Data Releases***
North American Surface Freight Data for November 2008 will be released March 3. The Transportation Services Index (TSI) for January 2009 will be released March 11. Airline Traffic Data for December 2008 will be released on March 12. Passenger Airline Employment Data for January 2009 will be released March 17.
- ***FAA Air Traffic Official to Participate in NATCA Conference***
From March 2-4, Hank Krakowski, Chief Operating Officer of the FAA's Air Traffic Organization will attend and serve on a panel at the National Air Traffic Controllers Association Safety Conference, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***FAA To Host its 34th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference***
FAA is preparing to host the 34th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference to be held March 31 - April 1 at the Washington Convention Center. This premier event attracts aviation leaders from across the industry to discuss issues facing aviation today and into the future. This year's theme is "Confronting New Realities: Energy, Economics, and Efficiency. Besides unveiling the new FAA forecasts, several panels composed of industry, academic, and government representatives will delve into the various aspects of these issues.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- ***Secretary LaHood Interviewed by Mort Kondracke***
On February 17, Secretary LaHood was interviewed by Roll Call editor Morton Kondracke for an upcoming Roll Call special policy focus on transportation. Date of publication not known.
- ***Media Round Tables with DOT Beat Reporters.***
The Secretary is participating in on-the-record round tables with the department's

beat reporters. Most took place the week of February 16.

- ***CBS Evening News with Katie Couric on Safety of Traveling by Different Modes***
On February 10, Cassi Feldman of the *CBS Evening News with Katie Couric* asked for data on the relative safety of traveling on different modes. RITA provided the web link for fatality and vehicle mile numbers by mode.
- ***Airline Crash Near Buffalo Still Attracting Media Interest***
Even though the NTSB is conducting an investigation of the turboprop airliner crash near Buffalo, New York, on February 12, we continue to get residual questions related to the accident.
- ***FAA Privacy Breach Also in News***
We also continue to get questions related to the breach of a FAA server which resulted in the exposure of names and social security numbers of more than 45,000 employees who were on the rolls up to the first week of February 2006.
- Rich Simon from *The Los Angeles Times* (CA) called the Federal Railroad Administration to ask about the locations of the eleven existing federally designated high-speed rail corridors. He was directed to the appropriate pages on the FRA website with maps and project descriptions. Outcome: Positive.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- ***President of New York Construction Company Sentenced in a \$11.4 million Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Fraud Scheme***
On February 13, Charles Doherty, president of United States Rebar, Incorporated (U.S. Rebar) was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Central Islip, New York, on charges related to a fraud scheme affecting \$11.4 million in Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) subcontracts on various public works construction projects in the New York metropolitan area that received DOT grant funds. In September 2005, Mr. Doherty pled guilty to money laundering conspiracy charges, and admitted that between January 1998 and July 2002, U.S. Rebar, a non-DBE firm, posing as various DBE firms, fraudulently obtained five DBE subcontracts valued at approximately \$11.4 million to install rebar. Mr. Doherty was sentenced to three years probation and fined \$15,000. Also as a part of the plea agreement, he agreed to forfeit \$500,000 to the Government. The Federal Transportation Administration has debarred both Mr. Doherty and U.S. Rebar. The investigation revealed that Mr. Doherty conspired with the owners and representatives of several general contractors-falsely recording employees, payroll records, tax returns, and fraudulently cashing checks to generate cash, which was used to pay U.S. Rebar employees. This case was jointly investigated by DOT/OIG and other members of the Long Island Federal Construction Fraud Task Force.

- ***NHTSA Praised for Data Availability***
The NHTSA Office of Defects Investigations makes it easy for vehicle owners to access data related to vehicle safety defects. The website offers the option to file a complaint about your vehicle and an option to search complaints and safety defects by vehicle make and model. A recent article, written by Mary Schiavo and published in the Examiner, <http://www.examiner.com/x-1893-News-You-Can-Use-Examiner~y2009m2d4-How-to-do-your-own-detective-work-if-you-suspect-your-car-has-a-defect>, highlights the many types of information that vehicle owners can access on the NHTSA website.
- ***GTS Instructional Webinar***
On February 19, NHTSA will hold an instructional webinar with all regional staff to discuss issues related to the grant tracking system (GTS), the electronic financial system used to obligate and expend grant funds by the States. The use of this technology will save the agency thousands of dollars and hundreds of staff hours by eliminating the need to travel to the centralized GTS training course in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- ***NHTSA Daily Clips***
The NHTSA Media Relations Office recently converted the NHTSA Daily Clips from paper to an electronic copy. The conversion will save nearly \$1,000 in paper costs and reduce staff time by an estimated 325 hours per year.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

Nothing to Report.

Point of Contact: For the weekend of February 16-18, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of March 2, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with General Gene Dorado***
On March 2, Secretary LaHood will meet with Acting Comptroller General Gene Dorado in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Lebanese Ambassador***
On March 4, Secretary LaHood will meet with the Ambassador of Lebanon, Antoine Chedid in Washington, DC.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with French Minister of State for Energy, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning***
On March 4, Secretary LaHood will meet with the French Minister, Jean-Louis Borloo to discuss development of public transit in cities in France and the U.S. Washington, DC.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with the European Commission Vice President and Commission for Transport***
On March 4, Secretary LaHood will meet with Antonio Tajani, the European Commission Vice President and Commissioner of Transport in Washington, DC.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with National Association of Counties***
On March 5, Secretary LaHood will meet with the President of NACo, Don Stapley and senior staff in Washington, DC.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Rockefeller***
On March 5, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Rockefeller (D-WV) in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet a Lebanese Delegation***
On March 4, Secretary LaHood will meet with a Lebanese Delegation in Washington, D.C.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***Safety Summit***
On March 5-6, NHTSA staff will participate in the Bus Safety Summit in Crystal City, Virginia, organized by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. Representatives from NHTSA, FMCSA, and NTSB will meet with industry experts to discuss the future of bus and motorcoach safety.

- ***Wisconsin DOT Planning Groundbreaking Ceremony for I-94***
Date TBD, WisDOT is planning a groundbreaking ceremony for the I-94 North-South project, a 35-mile reconstruction and capacity-expansion project from Milwaukee to the Illinois state line, estimated at \$1.9 billion. Some preliminary work on interchanges and frontage roads will begin soon. A likely focus-project for Wisconsin with about \$100 million of ARRA funding, the project was highlighted by WisDOT for the recent White House event with Secretary LaHood. The Wisconsin Governor's office is coordinating the event.
- ***PHMSA Acting Deputy to Meet With Alaska State Senators***
On March 5, PHMSA Acting Deputy Administrator Cynthia Douglass and PHMSA Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety Jeff Wiese will meet with Alaska State Senators Bert Stedman (R-Ketchikan), Charlie Huggins (R-MatSu), Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak), and Lesil McGuire (R-Anchorage) [Chair, Senate Energy Committee] to discuss pipeline issues in Alaska.
- ***Upcoming RITA Data Releases***
The Transportation Services Index (TSI) for January 2009 will be released March 11. Airline Traffic Data for December 2008 will be released on March 12. Passenger Airline Employment Data for January 2009 will be released March 17.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***First Lady Visit's DOT***
First Lady Michelle Obama added DOT to her list of neighbor stops when she visited on February 20. More than 800 employees welcomed and listened to Mrs. Obama at the Department of Transportation. The First Lady tells the crowd, "So that's why your management, the work that you're doing here in Transportation to manage the investments in the economic recovery plan, is so very important". She later added, "There is a lot of work to do".
- ***Laboratory Testing Data***
ODAPC staff will provide laboratory testing data for the last 6 months of 2008 to the HHS, as well as the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Department of Justice. ODAPC's document compares 2008 testing data with that from the years 2005, 2006, and 2007. Trends identified show a slight rise in the percentage of positive results for THC, Opiates, and PCP. However, the overall positive rate of testing for the last six months of 2008 is slightly lower than in any of the previous three years. The top three drugs identified by laboratories continue to be – in prevalence order – THC, Cocaine, and Amphetamine / Methamphetamine. This is consistent with prior years.
- ***Staff to Represent DOT at Transport Forum in Paris***

On March 10-11, Acting Associate Administrator Kelly Leone of RITA's Research, Development and Technology program will serve as the U.S. DOT Official Delegate to the International Transport Forum in Paris, France. The meeting will bring together researchers from transportation bureaus and research agencies in 51 countries to undertake joint work on transport policy and economics.

- ***FHWA Hosts Indian Delegation***

On March 23 in Washington, DC, the Office of International Programs will host a delegation from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The delegation will include two senior officers from NHAI, an advisor from the India Executive Director's Office, and a World Bank representative. The delegation requests a briefing on FHWA's structure and national role, and to discuss a long term cooperative arrangement between NHAI and FHWA.

- ***Staff to Review Design and Testing of New Passenger Railcars in Seoul, Korea***

On March 1-7, staff from RITA's Volpe Center will travel to Seoul, South Korea, at the request of the Federal Railroad Administration. RITA staff will review the design development of Rotem's new passenger railcars intended for service by Metrolink/Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) and Southern Florida Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Upon the successful conduct of these tests, Rotem will proceed to manufacture a full railcar order to be delivered to SCRAA in 2009

- ***Surface Freight Data Release***

The North American Surface Freight Data for December 2008 will be released March 3. Updated monthly, these data are used to monitor freight flows since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement. They are available by commodity type, by surface mode of transportation, and with geographic detail.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- Alfonse Castillo and Keith Herbert at *Newsday* (NY), Doug Richards at *News 12 Long Island*, Greg Cergolat *WNBC-TV 4* all called to follow-up on a February 20th fatal highway-rail grade crossing collision in Syosset. We explained that FRA Region I is conducting an investigation, initiated in response to conflicting eyewitness reports about the proper functioning of the automatic warning devices. We responded to questions about the reliability of active warning device systems, event recorders and driver behavior. Outcome: Net-positive.
- Noah Berman from *The Boston Globe* called for an update on a March 25, 2008 incident in Caton, MA, and information on FRA's focused inspection of CSX, particularly as it pertained to an employee's failure to apply hand brakes. He was told the accident is still under investigation, and was provided a press release and

documents from the CSX inspection, including a summary of violations. He was also instructed where to find brake application failure data on the FRA Safety data website. Outcome: Neutral

- Jim Abrams at *Associated Press* (DC), Daisy Nguyen at *Associated Press* (Los Angeles), Chris Conkey at *The Wall Street Journal*, Michael Cooper at *The New York Times*, Dan Eggin at *The Washington Post*, Jason Hoppin at *The Pioneer Press* (St. Paul, MN), Corena Peachtree at *American Markets News*, Todd Taransky at *Argus Media*, Corey McKenna at *Government Technology* (Folsom, CA), Bob Braley at *The News-Sun* (Kendallville, IN) called to request a copy of the memo to the White House (ostensibly) mentioned by the Secretary, and learn which six regions or high-speed rail corridors were said to have been included in it. We explained no such memo exists; at this time we do not have information about specific projects; and that the Secretary is developing a comprehensive strategic plan over the next 60 days to ensure the allocated high-speed rail funds are spent on projects that will have the highest-impact across the country. The strategic plan will lay out the process for DOT/FRA administration of the \$8 billion in competitive grant funding provided for in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We also noted that within 120 days, FRA will issue guidance to states, in the form of a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) actively soliciting applications. We were also asked why FRA's map of high-speed rail corridors does not include the proposed Las Vegas to Anaheim maglev route that was widely maligned and ridiculed. We explained that the corridor is not one of eleven federally-designated corridors previously selected and advanced under ISTEA, TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU. We were asked whether maglev will be eligible to receive funds under ARRA, and we said our understanding is it will. Outcome: Neutral

- ***CAFE Rulemaking***

On February 27, NHTSA expects to publish in the *Federal Register* a request for manufacturer product plans as part of the 2012 and beyond Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) rulemaking. Car and light truck manufacturers will be asked to submit their product plans through 2020 model years to NHTSA within 60 days after the notice is published.

- Trish Callahan of the *Chicago Tribune* is working on a story on child seat testing. Publication date: March 1. Expected outcome: Negative.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- ***Impaired Driving Course***

In March, NHTSA will save approximately \$14,000 by revising a training course on reducing impaired driving from an in-person event to a series of teleconferences.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

- ***Charles Hurley Offered Position as DOT National Highway Transportation Safety Administrator***
In vetting.
- ***Victor Mendez Offered Position as DOT Federal Highway Administrator***
In vetting.
- ***Peter Rogoff Offered Position as DOT Federal Transit Administrator***
In vetting.
- ***Jill Zuckman Accepted Position as DOT Assistant to the Secretary for Public Affairs and started this week.***

Candidate interviews are ongoing, with multiple interviews scheduled for next week.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

- Inspection reports of Multnomah County, Oregon from 2004 to the present.
- Inspection reports for the Meridian & Bigbee Railroad from 2005 through 2006.
- Violations, complaints, and reports of personnel misconduct for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority from 1995 to the present.
- May 28, 2008 accident involving Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) in Omaha, Nebraska.
- July 5, 2007 accident involving Cass Scenic Railroad in West Virginia.

Point of Contact: For the weekend of March 6-8, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of March 9, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to Address APTA Legislative Conference.***
On March 9, Secretary LaHood will address the American Public Transit Association's legislative conference in Washington, DC. His remarks will focus on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Announce Grant for Dulles Metro.***
On March 10, Secretary LaHood will announce a grant for Metrorail to Dulles Airport in Washington, DC. Governor Kaine and the Virginia Congressional Delegation will attend.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Testify Before Senate Banking Committee.***
On March 12, Secretary LaHood will testify before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee in Washington, DC, focusing on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Visit Houston, TX***
On the weekend of March 12, Secretary LaHood will visit Houston, TX at the invitation of Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. Details are pending, but the Secretary will be touring ARRA-related projects and meeting with transportation interests in the area.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***House Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing.***
On Tuesday, March 10, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies will hold a hearing on DOT's top management challenges. At this time, Inspector General Calvin Scovel is the only named DOT witness testifying.
- ***House Small Business Committee Hearing.***
On Thursday, March 12, the House Small Business Committee will hold a hearing on small business contracting. Joel Szabat, DOT Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, will testify.
- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***
On Wednesday, March 18, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on "ATC Modernization and NextGen: Near-term Achievable Goals." Testifying on behalf of DOT are Inspector General Calvin Scovel, Victoria Cox, FAA Air Traffic Organization Senior Vice President for NextGen and Operations Planning Business Unit, and Dr. Karlin Toner, Senior Staff Advisor for NextGen Coordination.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***Illinois Governor Appoints New Secretary of Transportation***
Illinois Governor Pat Quinn announced on February 27 that he will appoint Illinois State Representative Gary Hannig to serve as the Secretary of Transportation for Illinois DOT. Hannig, a Certified Public Accountant and 29 year veteran of the Illinois General Assembly, currently serves as Deputy Majority Leader in the Illinois House. Hannig will replace Milton Sees.
- ***Staff to Review Design and Testing of New Passenger Railcars in Seoul, Korea***
On March 1-7, staff from RITA's Volpe Center will travel to Seoul, South Korea, at the request of the Federal Railroad Administration. RITA staff will review the design development of Rotem's new passenger railcars intended for service by Metrolink/Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) and Southern Florida Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Upon the successful conduct of these tests, Rotem will proceed to manufacture a full railcar order to be delivered to SCRAA in 2009.
- ***Staff to Represent DOT at Transport Forum in Paris***
On March 10-11, Acting Associate Administrator Kelly Leone of RITA's Research, Development and Technology program will serve as the U.S. DOT Official Delegate to the International Transport Forum in Paris, France. The meeting will bring together researchers from transportation bureaus and research agencies in 51 countries to undertake joint work on transport policy and economics.
- On March 10, FTA Acting Deputy Administrator Matt Welbes will participate in a media event to announce the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension to Wiehle-Avenue. Secretary LaHood has been confirmed as a keynote speaker and participant during the ceremonial FFGA signing. The media event will take place at 10am in the West Atrium of the US Department of Transportation headquarters building. Members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation will be in attendance as well as Virginia Governor Tim Kaine.
- On March 9, the monthly Air Travel Consumer Report will be released, containing airline on-time performance, mishandled baggage and consumer complaint reports for January.
- On March 11 the Bureau of Transportation Statistics the release monthly Transportation Services Index for January.
- On March 12 the Bureau of Transportation Statistics will release its monthly report on air traffic data for December and calendar year 2008.
- ***FHWA Hosts Indian Delegation***
On March 23 in Washington, DC, the Office of International Programs will host a delegation from the National Highways Authority of India (HNAI). The delegation

will include two senior officers from NHAJ, an advisor from the India Executive Director's Office, and a World Bank representative. The delegation requests a briefing on FHWA's structure and national role, and to discuss a long term cooperative arrangement between NHAJ and FHWA.

- ***ARRA Project Groundbreaking Planned in Wisconsin***

The mid-March event being planned by Wisconsin Division and Wisconsin DOT will announce the start of construction on the I-94 North-South corridor in southeast Wisconsin, which will receive \$100 million in ARRA funds for contracts awarded in the next few months. The project is estimated at \$1.9 billion and will reconstruct and add capacity to 35 miles of freeway from Milwaukee to Illinois. A public information campaign announcing the start of construction will launch in mid-March and both events are being coordinated with the Governor's office.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- The Department of Transportation has been receiving a large number of media inquiries regarding High Speed Rail, both from national new sources and local media. Many of the requests have been quite general, and the Federal Railroad Administration has provided basic fact sheets and statistics. Reporters inquiring about specific projects (including the controversial LA to Las Vegas link) have been informed that states will be competing for the ARRA funds, and directed to speak with their State DOT officials. Specific information about individual inquiries is available upon request.
- ***Chicago Tribune on Lost Baggage***
On February 24, Julie Johnsson of the *Chicago Tribune* asked for lost baggage numbers for a story about whether new baggage fees have resulted in fewer checked and lost bags. RITA staff provided the number of mishandled baggage reports. Staff also provided the amount of fees collected by airlines.
- ***ABC News 20/20 on General Congestion Data***
On February 25, Patrick McMenamin of *ABC News 20/20* asked for general congestion numbers. RITA staff provided the link to the average commute time table on the Bureau of Transportation Statistics website but told him the Census Bureau has released updated numbers. Staff also referred him to the Texas Transportation Institute tables posted on the BTS website.
- ***Bloomberg News on Annual Trade with Mexico by Truck***
On February 26, Cindy Skrzycki of *Bloomberg News* asked for the latest annual numbers for trade by truck with Mexico for a story about the pilot program for Mexican trucks. We provided the 2007 numbers.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- ***Contracts***

During the week of February 23, NHTSA completed 11 contract close outs resulting in \$243,000 de-obligated.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

- Candidate interviews are ongoing, with multiple interviews scheduled for next week.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

- ***Direct Observation for Follow-Up and Return-to-Duty Testing***

On March 26, 2009, oral arguments will be held in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit for litigation regarding the direct observation requirements for DOT's return-to-duty and follow-up tests. The D.C. Circuit stayed the effective date of our final rule regarding these requirements late last year. ODAPC and the Office of General Counsel are continuing to provide the Department of Justice with assistance in preparing for the oral argument in this expedited Federal court case.

- On February 25, 2009, Kate Hanni, the Executive Director of FlyersRights.Org, filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking copies of any written correspondence (letters, emails, presentations, etc), dated December 16, 2008 to the present, between RITA and the reporting airlines in regard to accurate performance data reporting under Airline Directive #17. Airline Directives are issued by the Office of Airline Information, BTS/RITA and provide technical reporting instructions to the airlines.

Point of Contact: For the weekend of March 13-15, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of March 16, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Rockefeller (D-WV)***
On March 17, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Rockefeller in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Gillibrand (D-NY)***
On March 17, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Gillibrand in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Address National League of Cities***
On March 17, Secretary LaHood will address the National League of Cities Annual Congressional Cities Conference in Washington, D.C. His remarks will focus on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.
- ***Secretary LaHood to host Department of Transportation Town Hall at the Federal Aviation Administration***
On March 18, Secretary LaHood will hold a town hall meeting at the Federal Administration in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to attend the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Hearing***
On March 18, Secretary LaHood will attend the Appropriations Hearing on Livable Communities, Transit Oriented Development, and Incorporating Green Building Practices into Federal Housing and Transportation Policy in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to attend High Speed Rail Event***
On March 19, Secretary LaHood is holding his calendar for a tentative High Speed Rail Event with President Obama in California. His remarks will focus on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Middle Class Task Force Event***
Secretary LaHood is holding his calendar for a tentative meeting event with Vice President Biden and the Middle Class Task Force in St. Cloud, Minnesota.
- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Deliver Remarks at FAA NextGen Day***
On March 16, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will deliver remarks at the FAA NextGen Day on the Hill in Washington, DC.
- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Deliver Remarks at NYMTC Annual Meeting***
On March 19, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will deliver remarks at the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council's (NYMTC) Annual Meeting in New York, New York.

- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Visit the USMMA***
On March 19, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will tour facilities at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in Kings Point, New York.
- ***SLSDC Administrator to attend ILWU Winter Meeting***
From March 19-20, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) Administrator Terry Johnson will participate in the annual Winter Meeting of the International Longshoremen's (ILWU) Association in Tampa, Florida.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Mayors from Five Colorado Cities***
On March 23, 2009, Secretary LaHood will meet with the Mayors of five Colorado cities to discuss the Department's Surface Reauthorization in Washington, D.C.
- ***Lebanese Embassy to host Reception and Dinner for Secretary LaHood***
On March 23, Secretary LaHood will attend a reception and dinner to celebrate his selection to the Cabinet at the Lebanese Embassy in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to address Students at the Garrett Morgan Symposium***
On March 25, Secretary LaHood will talk to the Mineta Transportation Institute Garrett Morgan Symposium. His remarks will focus on his experience in transportation and encouraging the students to continue their studies.
- ***Secretary LaHood to host China's Minister of Transport***
On March 30, Secretary LaHood will host China's Minister of Transport Mr. Shenglin Li in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Celebrate Department's Results in CFC***
On March 31, Secretary LaHood will have a ceremony to celebrate the Department's results in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) in Washington, D.C. The department exceeded its goal in dollars raised and participation level.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Speak at FAA Forecast Conference***
On March 31, Secretary LaHood will address the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Forecast Conference in Washington, D.C. His remarks will focus on the issues facing aviation and FAA reauthorization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation on ATC Modernization Hearing***

On March 18, the Inspector General will testify before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation on Air Traffic Control Modernization and NextGen: Near-Term Achievable Goals. Witnesses for the department will be Calvin Scovel, Inspector General, Victoria Cox, Senior VP for NextGen and Operations Planning, Dr. Karlin Toner, DOT Senior Staff Advisor for NextGen Coordination.

- ***House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Hearing***

On March 25, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, will hold a hearing on the future of high speed rail, intercity passenger rail, and Amtrak. A representative of the Federal Railroad Administration will testify.

- ***Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee Hearing***

On March 25, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security will hold a hearing on FAA Reauthorization. Hank Krakowski, FAA Chief Operation Officer, Air Traffic Organization, will testify.

- ***FMSCA, Acting Deputy Administrator to speak at General Session***

On March 12, 2009, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Acting Deputy Administrator Rose A. McMurray will speak during the General Session of the International Association of Chiefs of Police State and Provincial Division Midyear conference in Alexandria, Virginia.

- ***FAA to Meet with European Counterparts to Discuss Environment***

From March 15-17, Nancy LoBue, Acting Assistant Administrator for Aviation Policy, Planning, and International Aviation, will travel to The Hague, Netherlands, and Brussels, Belgium, to meet with her European counterparts to explore options for a successful outcome to the GIACC process as a path for the European Union (EU) to back away from unilateral application of its emissions trading scheme (ETS) to non-EU airlines. She will also meet with officials of non-EU member states to provide information on the status of the GIACC process and to encourage continued joint efforts to advocate against the EU ETS directive's application to non-EU carriers. Ms. LoBue will exchange views with U.S. and European industry representatives, providing information on GIACC and understanding the developments in European environmental policies.

- ***Grand Opening for South Ferry Station in New York City***

On March 16, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in New York City will host the grand opening ceremony for the South Ferry Station in New York City. The new South Ferry station cost a total of \$535.8 million, with \$420 million from a grant awarded by the Federal Transit Administration earmarked for Lower Manhattan and World Trade Center reconstruction. MTA will host the event along with local

and state elected officials. Senator Charles E. Schumer (NY) is scheduled to be one of the participants.

- ***PHMSA Participates in a Multi-Agency Strike Force Operations (MASFO) in Alabama***

From March 16-20, PHMSA will participate in a MASFO and Hazardous Materials Training-Container Inspector course with Department of Homeland Security -- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Customs, at the Port of Mobile, Alabama. The operation will include engaging inbound and outbound material freight at various inter-modal terminals. The MASFO establishes and enhances inter-agency communication networks and connectivity and provides valuable cross-training and familiarization of each agency's individual expertise, including USCG physical safety protocols for freight container inspections.

- ***Acting Deputy Administrator Meet with Lane Transit District***

On March 17, 2009, Acting Deputy Administrator Matthew Welbes will meet with transit officials from Lane Transit District and elected officials from Lane County, Oregon to discuss a variety of transportation and transit issues important to their region and provide an update on Lane Transit District's EmX service.

- ***Passenger Airline Employment Data Release***

On March 17, the Passenger Airline Employment data for January will be released. Airlines that operate at least one aircraft with the capacity to carry combined passengers, cargo and fuel of 18,000 pounds – the payload factor – must report monthly employment statistics. This monthly series of press releases is designed to reflect the existing structure of the airline industry and to provide numbers to measure the growing prominence of low-cost and regional air carriers.

- ***North American Surface Freight Data 2008 Annual Report Release***

On March 18, the North American Surface Freight Data 2008 Annual Report will be released. Updated monthly, these data are used to monitor freight flows since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement. They are available by commodity type, by surface mode of transportation, and with geographic detail.

- ***Federal Motor Carrier to host Safety Advisory Committee***

On March 18, the Office of Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation will conduct a Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting will be open to the public and be held to review the Development of a National Agenda for Motor Carrier Safety. Fifty industry representatives, safety enforcement officials, and safety advocacy groups are expected.

- ***PHMSA to Participate in FEMA's FRPCC Federal Response Subcommittee***

On March 19, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) will participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) Federal Response Subcommittee meeting in Washington, D.C. Under existing regulations, the FRPCC

is composed from 20 Federal Departments, agencies, and offices that work together to assure that the United States is safe from radiological incidents, involving nuclear or radioactive materials, including acts of terrorism.

- ***FHWA Hosts Indian Delegation***

On March 23, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of International Programs will host a delegation from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in Washington, D.C. The delegation will include two senior officers from NHAI, an advisor from the India Executive Director's Office, and a World Bank representative. The briefings will focus on FHWA's structure and national role, and to discuss a long term cooperative arrangement between NHAI and FHWA.

- ***PHMSA to Participate in National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) International Annual Meeting.***

On March 25, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety Jeff Wiese will participate in the PHMSA Forum at the NACE International Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

- ***Aviation Industry Performance Report***

By March 26, DOT expects to issue the tenth in a series of updates to our Aviation Industry Performance Report. The performance metrics were developed in 2002 as a mechanism for monitoring aviation industry trends including domestic demand and capacity, aviation system performance, airline finances, and air service in large and small communities. This edition of the report will focus on industry performance considering the current economic environment on the heels of unprecedented fuel prices.

- ***RITA Data Releases***

The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) will make the following data releases: On March 31, North American Surface Freight Data for January 2009 will be released. On April 8, the Transportation Services Index for February 2009 will be released. On April 16, Airline Traffic Data for January 2009 will be released. On April 21, Passenger Airline Employment Data for January 2009 will be released.

- ***FAA To Host its 34th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference***

From March 31 - April 1, FAA will host the 34th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference at the Washington Convention Center. This premier event attracts aviation leaders from across the industry to discuss issues facing aviation today and into the future. This year's theme is "Confronting New Realities: Energy, Economics, and Efficiency." Besides unveiling the new FAA forecasts, several panels composed of industry, academic, and government representatives will delve into the various aspects of these issues.

- ***Staff to Teach Transit Response to Rail and Bus Hijacking Seminars***
 From March 31-April 2, RITA's Transportation Safety Institute staff will host a Transit Response to Rail Hijacking seminar in Salt Lake City, UT, which provides transit system security personnel with an understanding of managing security threats to rail operations. Staff will then host a Transit Response to Bus Hijacking seminar on April 2.
- ***FAA Delegation to Attend the U.S./China Aviation Summit in Beijing***
 From April 7-9, Di Reimold, Acting Assistant Administrator for International Aviation, is tentatively scheduled to lead an FAA delegation to the U.S./China Aviation Summit in Beijing. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) is providing financial support for the Summit. USTDA has selected the American Association of Airport Executives as the meeting organizer. The meeting will be widely attended by representatives from U.S. government, aviation industry, and senior officials from the Civil Aviation Administration of China.
- ***PHMSA to Participate in NAPSRS Meeting in Iowa***
 During the week of April 12, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety Jeff Wiese will participate in the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSRS) Central Region Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. Presentations and discussions will include an update on PHMSA's strategic plan, 2009/2010 budget, State damage prevention and One-Call Grants, distribution user fee, Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance, Distribution Integrity Management Program, Ethanol/Biofuels, State evaluator roles, State guidelines, and other PHMSA initiatives. The NAPSRS Region Meetings bring together all State Pipeline Safety Programs Managers under a PHMSA Region to discuss and share ideas regarding pipeline safety programs issues.
- ***Wisconsin DOT Planning Groundbreaking Ceremony for I-94***
 WisDOT is planning a groundbreaking ceremony for the I-94 North-South project, a 35-mile reconstruction and capacity-expansion project from Milwaukee to the Illinois state line, estimated at \$1.9 billion. Some preliminary work on interchanges and frontage roads will begin soon. A likely focus-project for Wisconsin with about \$100 million of ARRA funding, the project was highlighted by WisDOT for the recent White House event with Secretary LaHood. The Wisconsin Governor's office is coordinating the event.
- ***President's Office of National Drug Control Policy***
 The Department of Transportation Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy Coordination will support the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Workplace Programs, effort to have the Office of National Drug Control Policy endorse the introduction of alcohol testing into the Federal drug-free workplace program. A number of Federal Agency programs, including DOT, already have provisions for alcohol testing. This effort would harmonize the Health and Human Services regulated program with DOT's.

- ***Norfolk Southern Railroad report on FMEA***
Norfolk Southern Railroad submitted the final report on the research of the Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) for their battery-powered locomotive under development. The FMEA identified, to the extent possible, all known failure modes of the battery management system for the hybrid locomotive. Mitigation strategies for the identified modes of failure were developed. ORD funded the FMEA study through a grant during the previous fiscal year.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- ***Secretary LaHood interviewed with NBC***
On March 12, Secretary LaHood was interviewed by NBC News on high-speed rail. The story is likely to run next week.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Interview with C-SPAN***
On March 20, Secretary LaHood will be interviewed by C-SPAN Newsmakers on transportation's role in economic recovery and other transportation issues.
- ***Bloomberg News on Transborder Data***
On February 26, Cindy Skrzycki of *Bloomberg News* asked for the latest annual numbers for trade by truck with Mexico for a story about the pilot program for Mexican trucks. Staff provided the 2007 numbers from the BTS 2007 annual Transborder press release.
- ***PHMSA TV Interview with WTAE TV-4 Pittsburgh***
On March 9, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety Jeff Wiese provided an on-camera interview with WTAE TV 4 Pittsburgh (Hearst-Argyle) reporter Paul Van Osdol on the topics of pipeline safety, State agency partnerships, 811-One Call and Dig Safely public education. The interview is expected to air Wednesday, March 18 between 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- ***Channel 11 inquiry about overdrawn grant money***
Alan Jennings of *Channel 11* in Pittsburgh inquired about an amount of \$600,000 in formula grant money that was overdrawn by the Port Authority of Allegheny County. The overdraw was identified in a 2008 Single Audit. He was told that the overdraw was caused by an administrative error, the Port Authority reimbursed the funds to the FTA in December 2008, and put procedures into place to immediately identify such errors in the future.

- ***FTA Acting Deputy Administrator Interview with Bruce Gellerman***
FTA Acting Deputy Administrator Matt Welbes was interviewed by Bruce Gellerman of *National Public Radio's "Living on Earth"* show about ARRA and transit funding. Mr. Welbes provided general information about the purpose, timing, accountability and transparency of ARRA funds. The show is expected to air within the next few days. Positive outcome expected.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- ***Former New Jersey FAA Supervisor Sentenced to Two Years Imprisonment for Accepting Bribes from an FAA Contractor***
On March 6, Darrell K. Woods, a former Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) program manager at the FAA's Technical Center in New Jersey, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Trenton, New Jersey, for his role in accepting bribes from Maria Lianidis, former president of Digital Management Systems, Inc. (DMS)—a computer engineering company based in Absecon, New Jersey. Mr. Woods was sentenced to two years in prison, payment of \$154,000 in restitution to the FAA, and serve three years of supervised release after completing his prison term. Mr. Woods pled guilty to wire fraud and money laundering in connection with accepting approximately \$155,000 in cash between 2001 and 2005 for steering millions of dollars in contracts to DMS. The FAA has debarred Mr. Woods from Government contracting.

In exchange for these bribes, Ms. Lianidis influenced Mr. Woods in the performance of his official duties, which included participating in the creation of FAA contract solicitations and overseeing DMS' performance on FAA contracts that DMS obtained with Mr. Woods' assistance. Since 2001, Mr. Woods had issued about \$2.5 million in purchase orders to DMS. Around January 2003, Mr. Woods drafted a sole source justification to award DMS a contract; ultimately, in October 2003, DMS was awarded a competitive contract that resulted in payments in excess of \$4.2 million. DMS was bidding on a solicitation valued in excess of \$34 million when OIG and the Internal Revenue Service executed search warrants in February 2005 and the solicitation was ultimately canceled. Ms. Lianidis, a former FAA employee, was sentenced for her role in the scheme in December 2008 to four years incarceration and fined \$75,000.

- ***Actions Taken and Needed to Improve FAA's Runway Safety Area Program***
On March 3, we issued our report on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Runway Safety Area (RSA) Program. We found that FAA still faces major challenges (e.g., man-made, natural, environmental, and legal) in improving several RSAs, including those at 11 of the Nation's 30 largest airports. Our recommendations focus on: (1) developing a plan to improve RSAs at 11 airports to the fullest extent practical; (2) developing and implementing a program to remove or modify non-standard navigation aids located in RSAs; (3) issuing detailed guidance to and conducting training for those who identify, track, and report the status of RSAs; (4) implementing quality control procedures to ensure the accuracy and

integrity of RSA data; and (5) expanding the annual report to Congress to better reflect the true status of RSA improvement activities.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

- ***Kevin Chapman Accepted Position as DOT Director of Scheduling and Advance and started this week.***

Candidate interviews are ongoing, with multiple interviews scheduled for next week.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

- ***PHMSA FOIA Response to Cascadia Wildlands Project***
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provided over 1000 pages of records in response to a FOIA request from Cascadia Wildlands Project. This group requested copies of inspection reports for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System and all orders issued to Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. This involves an open pipeline enforcement case. PHMSA's Counsel is providing legal guidance concerning a stack of responsive records that may contain information protected by FOIA exemptions 5 and 7. Once that legal review has been completed, a second set of redacted records will be released.
- ***Direct Observation for Follow-Up and Return-to-Duty Testing***
On March 26, 2009, oral arguments will be held in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit for litigation regarding the direct observation requirements for DOT's return-to-duty and follow-up tests. In late 2008, the D.C. Circuit stayed the effective date of our final rule regarding the direct observation requirements for DOT's return-to-duty and follow-up tests. Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy Coordination (ODAPC) and the Office of General Counsel are continuing to provide the Department of Justice with assistance in preparing for the oral argument in this expedited Federal case.

Point of Contact: For the weekend of March 20-22, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of March 23, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Mayors from Five Colorado Cities***
On March 23, 2009, Secretary LaHood will meet with the Mayors of five Colorado cities to discuss the Department's Surface Reauthorization in Washington, D.C.
- ***Lebanese Embassy to host Reception and Dinner for Secretary LaHood***
On March 23, Secretary LaHood will attend a reception and dinner to celebrate his selection to the Cabinet at the Lebanese Embassy in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Address American Association of Port Authorities***
On March 24, Secretary LaHood will address the national conference of the American Association of Port Authorities in Washington, D.C. He will discuss general maritime concerns.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressional Black Caucus***
On March 24, Secretary LaHood will meet with the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Egyptian Transport Minister***
On March 24, Secretary LaHood will meet with the Egyptian Transport Minister Mohamed Mansour in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Governor Jennifer Granholm (Michigan)***
On March 24, Secretary LaHood will meet with Governor Jennifer Granholm of Michigan.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Address Students at the Garrett Morgan Symposium***
On March 25, Secretary LaHood will give the keynote address to the Mineta Transportation Institute Garrett Morgan Symposium via webcast. His remarks will focus on his experience in transportation and on encouraging students to continue their studies.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Address Phoenix Aviation Symposium***
On March 26, Secretary LaHood will address the Phoenix Aviation Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona. He will discuss ARRA as well as aviation reauthorization.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Tour ARRA Project Sites in Phoenix, Arizona***
On March 26 and 27, Secretary LaHood will highlight ARRA-funded transportation projects which are already creating jobs in Phoenix, Arizona. Details are being finalized, but will include aviation and transit projects.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Address the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce***

On March 27, Secretary LaHood will address the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. He will discuss the recovery package and surface reauthorization.

- ***Secretary LaHood to Testify before Senate Environment and Public Works Committee***
On Wednesday, March 25, will testify at a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee concerning highway issues.
- ***Secretary LaHood to host China's Minister of Transport***
On March 30, Secretary LaHood will host China's Minister of Transport Mr. Shenglin Li in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Speak at FAA Forecast Conference***
On March 31, Secretary LaHood will address the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Forecast Conference in Washington, D.C. His remarks will focus on the issues facing aviation and FAA reauthorization.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***FHWA Hosts Indian Delegation***
On March 23, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of International Programs will host a delegation from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in Washington, D.C. The delegation will include two senior officers from NHAI, an advisor from the India Executive Director's Office, and a World Bank representative. The briefings will focus on FHWA's structure and national role, and to discuss a long term cooperative arrangement between NHAI and FHWA.
- ***House Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing***
On Wednesday, March 25, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, will hold a hearing on the future of high speed rail, intercity passenger rail, and Amtrak. A representative of the Federal Railroad Administration will testify.
- ***Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee Hearing***
On Wednesday, March 25, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security will hold a hearing entitled, "FAA Reauthorization – NextGen and the Benefits of Modernization." Hank Krakowski, FAA Chief Operation Officer, Air Traffic Organization, will testify.
- ***House Science Subcommittee Hearing***
On Thursday, March 26, the House Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics will hold a hearing on aviation and the emerging use of biofuels. Dr. Lourdes Maurice, Acting Director, FAA Office of Environment and Energy, will testify.

- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing***
On Tuesday, March 31, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials will hold a hearing on rail rehabilitation financing. Witnesses are yet to be determined.
- ***FAA To Host its 34th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference***
From March 31 - April 1, FAA will host the 34th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference at the Washington Convention Center. This premier event attracts aviation leaders from across the industry to discuss issues facing aviation today and into the future. This year's theme is "Confronting New Realities: Energy, Economics, and Efficiency." Besides unveiling the new FAA forecasts, several panels composed of industry, academic, and government representatives will delve into the various aspects of these issues.
- ***Staff to Teach Transit Response to Rail and Bus Hijacking Seminars***
From March 31-April 2, RITA's Transportation Safety Institute staff will host a Transit Response to Rail Hijacking seminar in Salt Lake City, UT, which provides transit system security personnel with an understanding of managing security threats to rail operations. Staff will then host a Transit Response to Bus Hijacking seminar on April 2.
- ***NHTSA Acting Deputy Administrator Medford to Speak at California Annual Traffic Safety Summit***
On April 8, NHTSA Acting Deputy Administrator Ronald Medford will deliver the opening address at the California Office of Traffic Safety Annual Traffic Safety Summit in San Francisco, California. The summit, April 8-10, provides traffic safety professionals and advocates with innovative solutions to help save lives and reduce injuries and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes. Workshops will focus on driving under the influence enforcement and prosecution, child passenger safety, media, underage drinking, motorcycle safety, traffic safety engineering, and bike and pedestrian programs.
- ***FAA Delegation to Attend the U.S./China Aviation Summit in Beijing***
From April 7-9, Di Reimold, Acting Assistant Administrator for International Aviation, is tentatively scheduled to lead an FAA delegation to the U.S./China Aviation Summit in Beijing. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) is providing financial support for the Summit. USTDA has selected the American Association of Airport Executives as the meeting organizer. The meeting will be widely attended by representatives from U.S. government, aviation industry, and senior officials from the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***Aviation Industry Performance Report***

By March 26, DOT expects to issue the tenth in a series of updates to our Aviation Industry Performance Report. The performance metrics were developed in 2002 as a mechanism for monitoring aviation industry trends including domestic demand and capacity, aviation system performance, airline finances, and air service in large and small communities. This edition of the report will focus on industry performance considering the current economic environment on the heels of unprecedented fuel prices.

- ***RITA Data Releases***

The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) will make the following data releases: On March 31, North American Surface Freight Data for January 2009 will be released. On April 8, the Transportation Services Index for February 2009 will be released. On April 16, Airline Traffic Data for January 2009 will be released. On April 21, Passenger Airline Employment Data for January 2009 will be released.

- ***FAA's Process for Reporting and Investigating Operational Errors***

By March 27, we expect to issue our report on FAA's Process for Reporting and Investigating Operational Errors. Our audit objectives were to (1) determine whether FAA has adequate policies and procedures to ensure accuracy and consistency in operational error reporting and (2) review the roles and responsibilities of the Air Traffic Organization and FAA's Aviation Safety line of business in reporting and investigating operational errors. The audit was requested by the Chairmen of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Aviation Subcommittee.

- ***Review of Web Applications Security and Intrusion Detection in Air Traffic Control Systems***

By March 31, we expect to issue our final report on Review of Web Applications Security and Intrusion Detection in Air Traffic Control Systems. Our objectives are to determine whether web applications used in supporting ATC operations are properly secured to prevent unauthorized access to ATC systems and if FAA's network intrusion-detection capability is effective in monitoring ATC cyber-security incidents. This audit was requested by the Ranking Minority members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its Aviation Subcommittee.

- ***Report on ARRA Oversight Challenges***

By March 31, 2009, we plan to issue a report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Oversight Challenges Facing the Department of Transportation. The objective of this audit was to highlight key DOT oversight challenges—based on prior OIG reports and other agencies' relevant audit work—and identify actions DOT should take now in support of ARRA requirements.

- ***Great Lakes Seaway System Set to Open***

The U.S. portion of the Great Lakes Seaway System is scheduled to open for the 2009 navigation season on March 31.

- ***Wisconsin DOT Planning Groundbreaking Ceremony for I-94***

WisDOT is planning a groundbreaking ceremony for the I-94 North-South project, a 35-mile reconstruction and capacity-expansion project from Milwaukee to the Illinois state line, estimated at \$1.9 billion. Some preliminary work on interchanges and frontage roads will begin soon. A likely focus-project for Wisconsin with about \$100 million of ARRA funding, the project was highlighted by WisDOT for the recent White House event with Secretary LaHood. The Wisconsin Governor's office is coordinating the event.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

There was significant press interest from trade journalists and general reporters in the legal challenge to the hours-of-service regulations and, separately, in the shut down of the cross-border long haul trucking demonstration project. Additionally, high speed rail continues to generate a great deal of interest. Specific information about all of the individual inquiries is available upon request.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- ***NHTSA Contract Close Outs***

During the week of March 9, NHTSA completed 71 contract close outs resulting in \$1.4 million de-obligated.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

- ***David Matsuda accepted position as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and started this week.***

Candidate interviews are ongoing, with multiple interviews scheduled for next week.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

- ***Direct Observation for Follow-Up and Return-to-Duty Testing***

On March 26, 2009, oral arguments will be held in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit for litigation regarding the direct observation requirements for DOT's return-to-duty and follow-up tests. In late 2008, the D.C. Circuit stayed the effective date of our final rule regarding the direct observation requirements for DOT's return-to-duty and follow-up tests. Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy Coordination (ODAPC) and the Office of General Counsel are continuing to provide the Department of Justice with assistance in preparing for the oral argument in this expedited Federal case.

- ***Sierra Club Sues over Texas Grand Parkway Project***

On March 9 the Houston Sierra Club filed a lawsuit alleging the FHWA violated NEPA in preparation and approval of an EIS for State Highway 99, Grand Parkway Segment E project. The project, with a total cost of \$397 million, was selected for \$181 million in ARRA funding by the Texas Transportation Commission.

Point of Contact: For the weekend of March 20-22, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of March 30, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to attend White House Announcement on Autos***
Secretary LaHood is holding March 30 for a tentative announcement from President Obama on Autos.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with China's Minister of Transport***
On March 30, Secretary LaHood will meet with China's Minister of Transport, Li Shenglin in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet Senator Chuck Grassley(R-IA)***
On March 30, Secretary LaHood will meet Senator Chuck Grassley in Washington, D.C. to discuss reinstating a program that allows Mexico-based trucks into the United States.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Governor Jim Doyle (D-WI)***
On March 30, Secretary LaHood will meet with Governor Jim Doyle in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman James Oberstar (D-MN)***
On March 30, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman James Oberstar in Washington, D.C. to discuss reinstating a program that allows Mexico-based trucks into the United States.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY)***
On March 30, Secretary LaHood will meet Congresswoman Louise Slaughter in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to attend Council on Access and Mobility Awards Ceremony***
On March 30, Secretary LaHood will present awards at the Council on Access and Mobility Ceremony honoring recipients of the 2008 National United We Ride Community Leadership Awards in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty***
On March 31, Secretary LaHood will meet with Mayor of D.C., Adrian Fenty in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)***
On March 31, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Maria Cantwell in Washington, D.C.

- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet Senator Than Cochran (R-MS)***
 On March 31, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Than Cochran in Washington, D.C.
- ***Secretary LaHood to attend the Environment and Energy Cabinet Cluster Lunch***
 On March 31 will attend the monthly Energy and Environment Lunch at United States Department of Agriculture.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Speak at FAA Forecast Conference***
 On March 31, Secretary LaHood will address the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Forecast Conference in Washington, D.C. His remarks will focus on the issues facing aviation and FAA reauthorization.
- ***Secretary LaHood to attend the Congressional French Caucus Reception***
 On March 31, Secretary LaHood will attend the Congressional French Caucus Reception hosted by the Ambassador of France to the U.S., Pierre Vimont.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Speak at the Association of Equipment Manufacturers***
 On April 1, Secretary LaHood will address the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Board of Director Meeting in Washington, D.C. on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He will also discuss his thoughts on highway and transit authorization.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)***
 On April 1, Secretary LaHood will meet with Senator Dick Durbin in Washington, D.C. to discuss reinstating a program that allows Mexico-based trucks into the United States.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with the Longshoreman & Warehouse Union***
 On April 2, Secretary LaHood will address the Longshoreman & Warehouse Union's officers and legislative action committee in Washington, D.C. At this breakfast meeting he will discuss the value of west coast ports and surface transportation reauthorization.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Meet with Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR)***
 On April 2, Secretary LaHood will meet with Congressman Peter DeFazio in Washington, D.C. to discuss reinstating a program that allows Mexico-based trucks into the United States.
- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Participate in Deputies Committee White House Briefing***
 On Wednesday, April 1, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will participate in a NSC/HSC Study Group Briefing on homeland security and counterterrorism in Washington, DC.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***PHMSA to Participate in National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) Meeting in Iowa***
During the week of April 12, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration's Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety Jeff Wiese will participate in the NAPSR Central Region Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. Presentations and discussions will include an update on PHMSA's strategic plan, 2009/2010 budget, State damage prevention and One-Call grants, Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance, Distribution Integrity Management Program, ethanol/biofuels, State evaluator roles, State guidelines, and other PHMSA initiatives. The NAPSR region meetings bring together all State Pipeline Safety Programs Managers under a PHMSA region to discuss and share ideas regarding pipeline safety programs issues.
- ***NHTSA Senior Associate Administrator McLaughlin to Speak at the Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities***
On March 30, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Senior Associate Administrator for Traffic Injury Control Brian McLaughlin will deliver the keynote address at the NHTSA Public Service Awards luncheon at the Lifesavers Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. NHTSA staff will also speak at numerous workshops along with representatives from FHWA and FMCSA. The Lifesavers Conference, March 29-April 1, is the premier national highway safety meeting in the United States. It attracts approximately 2,000 traffic safety practitioners, law enforcement officers and State and local safety advocates from a broad spectrum of public and private organizations.
- ***Staff to Teach Aviation Safety in South Africa***
On March 30-April 10, Research and Innovative Technology Administration's Transportation Safety Institute staff will instruct a Basic Aircraft Accident Investigation with Human Factors course in Johannesburg, South Africa to 20 members of the country's Civil Aviation Authority. The training will provide South Africa's personnel with fixed/rotary wing aircraft accident investigation techniques, procedures, and accident prevention.
- ***Staff to Teach Transit Response to Rail and Bus Hijacking Seminars***
On March 31-April 1, RITA's Transportation Safety Institute staff will host a Transit Response to Rail Hijacking seminar in Salt Lake City, UT, which provides transit system security personnel with an understanding of managing security threats to rail operations. Staff will then host a Transit Response to Bus Hijacking seminar on April 2.
- ***Safe Transport of Children in Ambulance***
On April 1, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will convene a working group to improve the safety of child passengers in ambulances. Experts from the health, medical, and emergency medical services community will work with NHTSA

and other Federal agencies on this 2-year project to develop solutions to the problems related to safely transporting children from a crash scene.

- ***PHMSA Acting Deputy will Attend the American Gas Association (AGA) Leadership Council Meeting***

On April 2, PHMSA Acting Deputy Administrator Cynthia Douglass and Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety Jeff Wiese will attend the AGA Leadership Council Meeting in Washington, DC.

- ***PHMSA Acting Deputy will Attend National Transportation Safety Board Conference***

From April 8-9, PHMSA Acting Deputy Administrator Cynthia Douglass will attend the National Transportation Safety Board's conference in Washington, DC, on safety related to human factors.

- ***Aviation Industry Performance Report***

By April 3, the Office of the Inspector General is expected to issue the tenth in a series of updates to our Aviation Industry Performance Report. The performance metrics were developed in 2002 as a mechanism for monitoring aviation industry trends, including domestic demand and capacity, aviation system performance, airline finances, and air service in large and small communities. This edition of the report will focus on industry performance considering the current economic environment, including unprecedented fuel prices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration First Intranet Meeting***

On March 11, 2009, Acting Deputy Administrator Rose A. McMurray led FMCSA's first ever, nationwide, All-Hands meeting conducted through the Agency's intranet site, the "KnowZone." From coast to coast, employees were able to interact in real time with the Agency's senior leadership team via their desktop computer. During the course of the one-hour meeting, a range of topics and issues were addressed. Some questions had been submitted earlier by field and headquarters staff. Additional questions were emailed during the course of the Web telecast. For those employees who were unable to participate in the All-Hands meeting, a video copy with captioning has been posted on the intranet site as well as a feedback survey to improve future Web telecasts.

- ***NHTSA Region 6 Administrator Meets New Mexico DOT Secretary***

On March 12, NHTSA Region 6 Administrator Georgia Chakiris briefed the newly confirmed New Mexico Secretary of Transportation Gary Girón on NHTSA priorities and New Mexico Traffic Safety Bureau initiatives, such as the New Mexico impaired driving demonstration project and the teen seat belt demonstration project.

- ***SLSDC Administrator Terry Johnson traveled to Tampa, Florida***

On March 19 - 20 Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Administrator,

Terry Johnson, traveled to Tampa, Florida to participate in the annual Winter Meeting of the International Longshoremen's Association.

- ***CAFE Standards for 2011 Model Year Cars and Trucks, Washington, D.C.***
On March 30, likely by press release, Secretary LaHood will announce the corporate average fuel economy standard (CAFE) for 2011 model year cars and trucks.
- ***SLSDC Administrator Terry Johnson will travel to Montreal, Canada***
On March 30, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Administrator, Terry Johnson, will participate in the official opening ceremony of the 2009 navigation season of the Great Lakes Seaway System on March 31. The ceremony will take place at the St. Lambert lock.
- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***
On Tuesday, March 31, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials will hold a hearing on the Rail Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program. Mark Yachmetz, FRA Associate Administrator for Railroad Development, will testify.
- ***Review of Web Applications Security and Intrusion Detection in Air Traffic Control Systems***
By March 31, we expect to issue a report on Review of Web Applications Security and Intrusion Detection in Air Traffic Control (ATC) Systems. Our objectives are to: determine whether web applications used in supporting ATC operations are properly secured to prevent unauthorized access to ATC systems and if FAA's network intrusion-detection capability is effective in monitoring ATC cyber-security incidents. This audit was requested by the Ranking Minority members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its Aviation Subcommittee.
- ***RITA Staff to Attend Hurricane Emergency Support Meetings in Texas***
On April 7-8, staff from Research and Innovative Technology Administration Volpe Center will participate in a Hurricane Gustav and Ike After Action meeting in Houston, Texas, and participate in the 31st National Hurricane Conference in Austin, Texas. Attendees at the meeting will discuss response and recovery activities in Texas and Louisiana. At the National Hurricane Conference, staff will meet with regional colleagues and attend training and workshops meant to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.
- ***Upcoming RITA Data Releases***
The Transportation Services Index for February 2009 will be released on April 8. Airline Traffic Data for January 2009 will be released on April 16. Passenger Airline Employment Data for January 2009 will be released April 21. Average Air Fares Fourth Quarter Data will be released April 29. North American Surface Freight Data for February will be released April 30.

- ***PHMSA Acting Deputy will Observe a Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO)***

From April 14-15, PHMSA Acting Deputy Administrator Cynthia Douglass will observe a MASFO conducted by PHMSA, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Jacksonville, the Department of Homeland Security/Customs, and the Florida State Police in the Port of Jacksonville, Florida. Staff members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials will also observe the operation. Areas of joint inspection focus for this operation will include illegal and undeclared shipments of hazardous materials, traffic/vehicle safety, drug interdiction and exams for weapons of mass destruction interdiction. The MASFO establishes and enhances inter-agency communication networks and connectivity and provides valuable cross training and familiarization of each agency's individual expertise, including USCG physical safety protocols for freight container inspections.

- ***Department of Health and Human Services***

On April 15, 2009, the Office of Drug Alcohol Policy and Compliance will host the first in a series of quarterly meetings with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Workplace Programs staff. At the initial meeting, we will discuss Point of Collection Testing, on-going laboratory testing and certification issues, and regulation harmonization, as well as alternative specimen testing and prescription medication issues.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- ***PHMSA Launches Facebook Social Media Networking Webpage***

On March 16, PHMSA launched a web blog on *Facebook* -- a popular social networking media, in an effort to make agency operations more transparent. The *Facebook* blog provides an updated list of current and future PHMSA hazardous materials outreach and public events.

- ***Company President Pleads to Making False Reports in Light Rail Project***

On March 19, David Appleby, president of Appleby NW, Inc. a steel fabrication company located in Granite Falls, Washington, pled guilty in U.S. District Court, Seattle, Washington, for making and using false documents in relation to his work on the \$2.4 billion Tukwila, Washington Light Rail-Line Project. Sentencing is set for July 10, 2009. Mr. Appleby successfully bid to fabricate steel casings for the footings for the four mile elevated portion of the Tukwila, Washington section of the \$2.4 billion Sound Transit Light Rail Project, which is funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Between May 2005 and November 2006, Mr. Appleby falsified 36 reports to make it appear that Appleby NW, Inc. had fabricated the casings out of M270 Grade 50 steel as required by the contract, when in fact casings had been fabricated out of a lesser grade, Grade 36, steel. Experts retained by Sound Transit and the FTA have concluded that the use of lesser grade steel does not present

a safety issue. Our investigation was conducted jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance provided by FTA.

- ***Former New York FAA Electronics Engineer Sentenced in a Travel Voucher Fraud Scheme***

On March 17, Robert C. Gonzalez, a former Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) electronics technician, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Brooklyn, New York to 60 days home confinement, followed by three years of supervised release and substance abuse treatment due to his involvement in a travel voucher fraud scheme. Mr. Gonzalez has already paid restitution to the FAA in the amount of \$21,603.89. In December 2008, Mr. Gonzalez pled guilty to a previously filed indictment charging him with embezzlement. Mr. Gonzalez, employed by the FAA Airways Facilities Division, Jamaica, New York, repaired electronic equipment at field locations, a position requiring frequent travel. In 2000, Mr. Gonzalez advised the FAA he would be changing his residence from a New York location to Findlay, Ohio. Our investigation determined that Mr. Gonzalez was actually living in a hotel in Rome, New York. In addition, in some instances Mr. Gonzalez claimed to be at locations outside of Rome, NY when in fact he remained in Rome, NY. The FAA terminated his employment shortly after he was arrested by DOT/OIG special agents. Our investigation was conducted with assistance from FAA, Eastern Region Security & Hazardous Materials Division.

- ***Federal Highway Administration Recovers \$1.3 Million in Ineligible Federal-Aid Expenditures from the North Carolina Department of Transportation***

As a result of our investigation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) North Carolina Division, Raleigh, North Carolina recovered \$1.3 million in ineligible Federal-aid expenditures from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Right of Way Division. This recovery, which was reported by FHWA on March 11, 2009, followed our investigation of two NCDOT employees [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Our investigation revealed that they violated NCDOT and FHWA policies and procedures concerning the approval of cost-to-cure claims; the solicitation of bid appraisals and awarding of contracts and the authorization of payments for non-compensable work and items concerning two projects to improve Lake Wheeler Road in Wake County, NC. This investigation resulted in [REDACTED] resignation and [REDACTED] demotion and reassignment to a non-supervisory role. (b)(7)(c)
OIG agents pursued the administrative recovery after this matter and were declined by the US Attorney's office for civil and criminal prosecution. Our investigation was worked jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; with significant assistance from the FHWA North Carolina Division.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

- ***Curtis Johnson accepted a position as Associate Director for Governmental Affairs and started this week.***

Candidate interviews are ongoing, with multiple interviews scheduled for next week.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

- ***Direct Observation for Follow-Up and Return-to-Duty Testing***

March 26, 2009 oral arguments were held in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for litigation regarding the direct observation requirements for the Department of Transportation's return-to-duty and follow-up tests. In late 2008, the District of Columbia Circuit stayed the effective date of our final rule regarding the direct observation requirements for the Department of Transportation's return-to-duty and follow-up tests. The Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance and the Office of General Counsel are continuing to provide the Department of Justice with assistance in preparing for the oral argument in this expedited Federal case.

Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 3-5, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of April 6, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- **Secretary LaHood will be on personal travel the week of April 5-11**
- **Secretary LaHood to Tour ARRA Economic Recovery Project Sites**
During the week of April 14-17, Secretary LaHood will undertake a transportation infrastructure economic recovery tour. Sites are still being finalized, but will likely include cities in Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Pennsylvania. The Secretary will make ARRA grant award announcements, visit ARRA construction sites, and meet with editorial boards in each of the cities he visits.
- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Participate in Deputies Committee White House Briefing***
On Wednesday, April 8, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will participate in a NSC/HSC Study Group Briefing on homeland security and counterterrorism in Washington, DC.
- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Participate in ARRA Implementation Meeting***
On Thursday, April 9, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will participate in a American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) implementation meeting with Vice President Biden in Washington, DC.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING MONTH

- ***PHMSA Acting Deputy will Attend National Transportation Safety Board Conference***
From April 8-9, PHMSA Acting Deputy Administrator Cynthia Douglass will attend the National Transportation Safety Board's conference in Washington, DC, on safety related to human factors.
- ***PHMSA to Participate in National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) Meeting in Iowa***
During the week of April 12, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration's Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety Jeff Wiese will participate in the NAPSR Central Region Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. Presentations and discussions will include an update on PHMSA's strategic plan, 2009/2010 budget, State damage prevention and One-Call grants, Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance, Distribution Integrity Management Program, ethanol/biofuels, State evaluator roles, State guidelines, and other PHMSA initiatives. The NAPSR region meetings bring together all State Pipeline Safety Programs Managers under a PHMSA region to discuss and share ideas regarding pipeline safety programs issues.

- ***Pediatrician Injury Prevention Committee***

On April 26-27, NHTSA staff will provide guidance on child passenger protection to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Injury, Violence and Poisoning Prevention at its bi-annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. NHTSA is one of five Federal agencies with non-voting liaison status on the committee, which develops formal policies and counseling recommendations on child transportation safety for its membership of more than 60,000 pediatricians nationwide.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- ***Public Broadcasting Service Interview with Secretary LaHood***

On March 30, Secretary LaHood will be interviewed on economic recovery and transportation for PBS.

- ***Washington Post Video Blog with Secretary LaHood***

On March 31, Secretary LaHood will be interviewed by Lois Romano for the *Washington Post* video blog.

- ***Interview with the Detroit New with Secretary LaHood***

On April 2, Secretary LaHood will be interviewed by David Shepardson of the *Detroit News* on transportation and stimulus issues.

- ***Inquiries to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration***

There was significant press interest by trade journalists and general reporters in the response by the Mexican government to the shut down of the cross-border long haul trucking demonstration project. Responses were closely coordinated with the OST Public Affairs Office.

- ***Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI)***

On March 17, Rick Romell of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* asked whether the American Trucking Association's (ATA) monthly Truck Tonnage Index is a leading economic indicator. An economist from RITA's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) spoke to him about the BTS Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) as a leading indicator. The ATA index is a component of the TSI.

- ***Detroit Free Press on Transborder Data for Detroit***

On March 17, Todd Spangler of the *Detroit Free Press* asked for data on the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit. Staff provided data from the BTS Transborder database on trade by truck for the port of Detroit and for all other border ports.

- ***KYTV (KY3) Springfield on Air Fares by Airport***

On March 18, Paul Adler of *KYTV* (KY3) in Springfield, MO, asked for a list of the most expensive airports. Staff referred him to the BTS Air Fare web page.

- ***PHMSA Acting Deputy will Observe a Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO)***

On April 15, PHMSA Acting Deputy Administrator Cynthia Douglass will observe a MASFO conducted by PHMSA, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, the Department of Homeland Security/Customs, and the Florida State Police in the Port of Jacksonville, Florida. Staff members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials and Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will also observe the operation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***NHTSA Acting Deputy Administrator to Meet with the California ARB***

On April 7, NHTSA Acting Deputy Administrator Ronald Medford will meet with the California Air Resources Board (ARB) in Sacramento, to discuss the status of the upcoming fuel economy and CO₂ regulations for light duty vehicles. They will exchange information on current studies regarding medium and heavy duty vehicles. The mission of the California ARB is to promote and protect public health, welfare and ecological resources through the effective and efficient reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering the effects on the economy of the State.

- ***NHTSA Acting Deputy Administrator Medford to Speak at California Annual Traffic Safety Summit***

On April 8, NHTSA Acting Deputy Administrator Ronald Medford will deliver the opening address at the California Office of Traffic Safety Annual Traffic Safety Summit in San Francisco, California. The summit, April 8-10, provides traffic safety professionals and advocates with innovative solutions to help save lives and reduce injuries and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes. Workshops will focus on driving under the influence enforcement and prosecution, child passenger safety, media, underage drinking, motorcycle safety, traffic safety engineering, and bike and pedestrian programs.

- ***Freight Transportation Services Index Release***

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) for February 2009 will be released on April 8. The TSI measures the movement of freight and passengers. Updated monthly, the index combines available data on freight traffic, as well as passenger travel, to yield a monthly measure of transportation services output.

- ***RITA Staff to Attend Hurricane Emergency Support Meetings in Texas***

On April 7-8, staff from Research and Innovative Technology Administration Volpe Center will participate in a Hurricane Gustav and Ike After Action meeting in Houston, Texas, and participate in the 31st National Hurricane Conference in Austin, Texas. Attendees at the meeting will discuss response and recovery activities in Texas and Louisiana. At the National Hurricane Conference, staff will meet with

regional colleagues and attend training and workshops meant to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

- ***FAA Delegation to Attend the U.S./China Aviation Summit in Beijing***
From April 7-9, Di Reimold, Acting Assistant Administrator for International Aviation, is tentatively scheduled to lead an FAA delegation to the U.S./China Aviation Summit in Beijing. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) is providing financial support for the Summit. USTDA has selected the American Association of Airport Executives as the meeting organizer. The meeting will be widely attended by representatives from U.S. government, aviation industry, and senior officials from the Civil Aviation Administration of China.
- ***Secretary Orders Extension of War Risk Insurance***
As a result of the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, and subsequent expansion of statutory authority, the Department of Transportation (DOT), through the FAA, is required to provide war risk hull loss and passenger and third-party liability insurance to airlines under Chapter 443 of Title 49 of the U.S. Code (49 U.S.C. § 44301, et seq.) Current FAA coverage required by statute ends on March 31, 2009. Given pending legislation related to aviation war risk insurance, the cost of commercial war risk insurance and the need for an orderly future transition by airlines to commercial war risk coverage, the Secretary has directed the FAA to continue provision of war risk insurance to airlines under current terms through August 31, 2009.
- ***Upcoming RITA Data Releases***
The Transportation Services Index for February 2009 will be released on April 8. Airline Traffic Data for January 2009 will be released on April 16. Passenger Airline Employment Data for January 2009 will be released April 21. Average Air Fares Fourth Quarter Data will be released April 29. North American Surface Freight Data for February will be released April 30.
- ***Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction Grant Program***
On April 8, FTA will host webinar (an internet enabled presentation) describing application procedures and program requirements for approximately 250 eligible applicants of the Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) grant program. The TIGGER program provides \$100 million in discretionary capital investment grants to transit agencies for projects that will either reduce greenhouse gas emissions or reduce energy consumption. The presentation will also describe methods for calculating energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions and allow for questions and answers about the program.
- ***Pediatrician Injury Prevention Committee***
On April 26-27, NHTSA staff will provide guidance on child passenger protection to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Injury, Violence and Poisoning Prevention at its bi-annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. NHTSA is one of five Federal agencies with non-voting liaison status on the committee, which develops formal policies and counseling recommendations on child transportation safety for its

membership of more than 60,000 pediatricians nationwide.

- ***FAA to Host Annual Environmental Forum***

The FAA will hold its annual Environmental Forum on May 13-14, 2009 in Washington, DC. The forum offers an opportunity for FAA's Office of Environment and Energy to share the latest aviation environmental trends, policies and practices with internal as well as external stakeholders.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- ***USA Today Article on Aviation Contracts under ARRA.***

DOT Public Affairs has provided *USA Today* with examples of how the economic recovery act is leading to more bids for lower amounts on aviation contract work. Expected outcome: Positive.

- ***Inquiries about Federal Railroad Administration Leadership***

Todd Tranausky from *Rail Business* called to understand leadership succession at FRA; specifically the transition from Acting Deputy Administrator Jo Strang to Deputy Administrator Karen Rae and ultimately, if confirmed to Joe Szabo as FRA Administrator. Rip Watson at *Transport Topics* called to ask who was heading FRA and whether we put any statement out about Administrator designate Joe Szabo. We explained that our Associate Administrator for Safety/Chief Safety Officer Jo Strang was Acting Deputy Administrator until Ms. Rae's arrival, and referred him to the March 18 White House announcement containing the President's nomination of Mr. Szabo as FRA Administrator. Outcome: Net-positive.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- ***Report on American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Oversight Challenges***

On March 31, we issued our report on oversight challenges facing the Department of Transportation with the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The objective of this audit was to highlight key DOT oversight challenges—based on prior OIG reports and other agencies' relevant audit work—and identify actions DOT should take now in support of ARRA requirements. Our report condensed the challenges into 10 focus areas where DOT must exhibit sustained and effective actions related to providing oversight to grantees receiving ARRA funding; implementing new requirements and programs mandated by ARRA; and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse. To ensure sufficient consideration of the potential risks discussed in this report, we recommended that the Secretary of Transportation, through the DOT-wide Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) team, develop an oversight implementation plan that outlines the key actions DOT already has underway or will take to address the 10 focus areas identified in our report. In its comments, the TIGER team's leadership agreed to provide us with a document outlining taken and planned actions within 30 days of the date of our report.

- ***FAA's Process for Reporting and Investigating Operational Errors***
On March 24, we issued our review of FAA's process for reporting and investigating operational errors. This review was requested by Chairman Oberstar of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Chairman Costello of the House Subcommittee on Aviation. While the events that transpired at DFW TRACON were not occurring system-wide, we did identify weaknesses in FAA's process for reporting and investigating losses of separation caused by pilots and controllers. FAA has initiated actions to address some of these weaknesses, but additional actions are needed. Specifically, FAA needs to, among other things, improve its process for reporting and investigating losses of separation by: (1) improving inspectors' procedures for investigating pilot deviations, (2) evaluating losses of separation caused by pilots and controllers consistently, and (3) implementing a full-time separation conformance tool, and (4) enhance the Air traffic Organization role in ensuring that losses of separation are reported accurately by implementing planned organizational changes in a timely manner and involving Flight Standards early in the event process.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

- ***Karen Rae accepted a position as Deputy Administrator for the Federal Railroad Administration and started this week.***
- ***Christa Fornarotto accepted a position as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs and started this week.***
- ***Candice Tolliver accepted a position as Director of Communications for the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration, and started this week.***
- ***Joanna Turner accepted a position as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs and started this week.***
- ***Katie Thomson accepted a position as Counselor to the Secretary and started this week.***
- ***Shailen Bhatt accepted a position as Special Assistant to the FHWA Administrator, and started this week.***
- ***Robert Letteney accepted a position as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, and will start on Monday, April 6.***
- ***Brandon Neal accepted a position as Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and will start on Monday, April 6.***

Candidate interviews are ongoing, with multiple interviews scheduled for next week.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

Nothing to Report

Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 3-5, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of April 13, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- **Secretary LaHood to Tour ARRA Economic Recovery Project Sites**
During the week of April 14-17, Secretary LaHood will undertake a transportation infrastructure economic recovery tour. Sites are still being finalized, but will likely include cities in Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. The Secretary will make ARRA grant award announcements, visit ARRA construction sites, and meet with editorial boards in each of the cities he visits.
- ***Deputy Secretary Barrett to Participate in Deputies Committee White House Briefing***
On Monday, April 13, Deputy Secretary Tom Barrett will participate in a NSC briefing on the 60-day Cybersecurity Review in Washington, DC.
- ***High-Speed Rail Announcement.***
On April 16, Secretary LaHood will join President Obama in Washington, DC for the unveiling of the administration's high-speed rail strategic plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***Upcoming RITA Data Releases***
Airline Traffic Data for January 2009 will be released on April 16. Passenger Airline Employment Data for January 2009 will be released April 21. Average Air Fares Fourth Quarter Data will be released April 29. North American Surface Freight Data for February will be released April 30.
- ***Pediatrician Injury Prevention Committee***
On April 26-27, NHTSA staff will provide guidance on child passenger protection to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Injury, Violence and Poisoning Prevention at its bi-annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. NHTSA is one of five Federal agencies with non-voting liaison status on the committee, which develops formal policies and counseling recommendations on child transportation safety for its membership of more than 60,000 pediatricians nationwide.
- ***PHMSA Acting Deputy will Observe a Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO)***
On April 15, PHMSA Acting Deputy Administrator Cynthia Douglass will observe a MASFO conducted by PHMSA, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, the Department of Homeland Security/Customs, and the Florida State Police in the Port of Jacksonville, Florida. Staff members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials and

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will also observe the operation.

- ***FAA to Host Annual Environmental Forum***
The FAA will hold its annual Environmental Forum on May 13-14, 2009 in Washington, DC. The forum offers an opportunity for FAA's Office of Environment and Energy to share the latest aviation environmental trends, policies and practices with internal as well as external stakeholders.
- ***FRA Awards Intercity Capital Grant for Planning of Midwest Rail Corridors.***
The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has awarded a \$297,000 grant to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) for the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI) to continue rail corridor planning, which may lead to the development of several high-speed rail corridors. The grant is made under FRA's FY 2008 Capital Assistance to States – Intercity Passenger Rail Service Program. This is a separate authority from the grants for high-speed rail under the Recovery Act (ARRA). Guidance for competitive grants under the new authority is still under development.
- ***Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Hearing.***
On Tuesday, April 21, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will hold a confirmation hearing on as few as three or as many as five of the following nominees: Roy Kienitz, Dana Gresham, Joe Szabo, Robert Rivkin, and Peter Appel.
- ***House Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing.***
The hearing of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies on the fiscal year 2010 budget, originally scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, is likely to be postponed until the Administration's Budget is released.
- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***
On Wednesday, April 22, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on helicopter emergency medical services. John Allen, Director, FAA Flight Standards Service, will testify.
- ***House Energy and Commerce Hearing on Climate Change***
On Wednesday, April 22, Secretaries LaHood, Jackson, and Chu are scheduled to testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Climate Change.
- ***FTA to Release the Rail Modernization Study in Coming Days***
The study is a requirement per the Conference Report accompanying the FY 2008 Appropriations Bill. The report assesses the level of capital investment required to attain and maintain a state of good repair for the Nations seven largest rails transit operators.

- ***FAA to Host Annual Environmental Forum***
The FAA will hold its annual Environmental Forum on May 13-14, 2009 in Washington, DC. The forum offers an opportunity for FAA's Office of Environment and Energy to share the latest aviation environmental trends, policies and practices with internal as well as external stakeholders.
- ***Grand Canyon National Park Noise Meeting***
Representatives from the FAA will meet with representatives of the National Parks Service and other specialists on April 14-16, 2009 in Denver, CO. The objective of the meeting is to advance discussions on a common strategy to address aircraft noise issues in the Grand Canyon national park.
- ***18th International Emissions Inventory Conference***
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold an international workshop on emissions inventories on April 14-17, 2009 in Baltimore MD. FAA representatives will attend this conference and make a presentation of recent advances in characterizing aviation emissions and estimating inventories.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- Lisa Stark, *ABC Good Morning America Weekend*, is preparing a story for this weekend on high-speed rail and has requested an interview. Whether she will interview the Secretary, FRA Acting Administrator or FRA Deputy Administrator is under consideration.
- Chris Conkey, *Wall St. Journal*, asked for an interview on how passenger rail service will change in the coming years. Whether she will interview the Secretary, FRA Acting Administrator or FRA Deputy Administrator is under consideration. The story will run later this week.
- Rob Farley, *St. Petersburg Times*, asked for assistance in updating their web site that tracks transportation-related promises made by the President when he was a candidate. <http://politifact.com/truth-o-meter/promises/browse/>
- The Federal Railroad Administration continues to field a high volume of High Speed Rail inquiries.
- There was continued significant press interest by trade journalists and general reporters in the response by the Mexican government to the shut down of the cross-border long haul trucking demonstration project.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Candidate interviews are ongoing, with multiple interviews scheduled for next week.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

Nothing to Report

Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 10-12, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of April 20, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee Hearing.***
On Wednesday, April 22, Secretaries LaHood, Jackson, and Chu are scheduled to testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Climate Change.
- ***Kuwait-America Foundation Dinner.***
On Wednesday, April 22, Secretary LaHood will participate in the Kuwait-America Foundation's "Act of Earth" gala dinner.
- ***Environmental Defense Fund Event.***
On Thursday, April 23, Secretary LaHood will participate in a media event with the Environmental Defense Fund in Washington, DC.
- ***Arab American Institute Foundation Dinner.***
On Thursday, April 23, Secretary LaHood will participate in the Kahlil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Awards gala hosted by the Arab American Institute Foundation.
- ***Amtrak Board Meeting.***
On Thursday, April 23, Secretary LaHood will attend his first Amtrak Board Meeting in Washington, DC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***Aviation Industry Performance Report***
By April 30, we expect to issue the tenth in a series of updates to our Aviation Industry Performance Report. The performance metrics were developed in 2002 as a mechanism for monitoring aviation industry trends, including domestic demand and capacity, aviation system performance, airline finances, and air service in large and small communities.
- ***NCSL Spring Forum***
On April 24, NHTSA staff will present an overview of the NHTSA safety programs and priorities on a traffic safety panel discussion at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Spring Forum in Washington, D.C.
- ***Pediatrician Injury Prevention Committee***
On April 26-27, NHTSA staff will provide guidance on child passenger protection to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Injury, Violence and Poisoning Prevention at its bi-annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. NHTSA is one of five Federal agencies with non-voting liaison status on the committee, which develops formal policies and counseling recommendations on child transportation safety for its membership of more than 60,000 pediatricians nationwide.

- ***Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Hearing.***
On Tuesday, April 21, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will hold a confirmation hearing on as few as three or as many as five of the following nominees: Roy Kienitz, Dana Gresham, Joe Szabo, Robert Rivkin, and Peter Appel.
- ***Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) Meeting***
From April 23-30, the CAEP Working Group 1 on noise will convene a meeting in Paris, France. FAA representatives will attend this meeting in roles as Working Group 1 co-chair and technical experts. Topics for discussion will include updates to ICAO documents on noise certification standards and guidelines, noise reduction technology goals, a research roadmap for assessing acceptability of supersonic flight over land.
- ***NASA Green Aviation Workshop***
From April 25-26, 2009 at NASA Ames Research Center, CA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will hold a workshop on "Green Aviation". The focus of the workshop will be on ways to reduce aviation's carbon footprint. An FAA representative will attend and provide a presentation on aviation climate impacts and mitigation solutions.
- ***FAA to Attend the FAA/Asia Pacific Bilateral Partners Dialogue Meeting***
From April 20-25, John Hickey, Deputy Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, will lead a U.S. delegation to the FAA/Asia Pacific Bilateral Partners Dialogue Meeting in Sydney, Australia. The meeting involves authorities from eight Asian-Pacific countries with which the United States has bilateral agreements related to airworthiness. The agenda will cover a range of aviation safety issues with a focus on business aviation's impacts in the Asia-Pacific region. The FAA will also hold an industry-day session where regional industry representatives can obtain information updates and address issues with senior FAA management.
- ***FAA Meeting with the European and Canadian Aviation Authorities***
From April 27-29, Dorenda Baker, Director of the FAA's Aircraft Certification Service, will lead a FAA delegation to Cologne, Germany for the biannual Certification, Maintenance, Rulemaking team meeting with Europe and Canada. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues of common interest related to aviation safety and to resolve aircraft certification policy issues with the FAA's counterparts in Europe and Canada. Additionally, it provides a further opportunity for FAA/EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency) interaction and cooperation with industry on issues of significant regulatory interest.
- ***NCSL Spring Forum***
On April 24, NHTSA staff will present an overview of the NHTSA safety programs and priorities on a traffic safety panel discussion at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Spring Forum in Washington, D.C. This annual event brings

together State legislators and legislative staff from all over the country to share their experiences with shaping public policy, crafting new laws, and managing the legislative institution.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- Trade and general interest media continue to request updates on Mexican cross-border trucking. Outlets include: *Inside U.S. Trade, Transport Topics, Reuter, The Trucker, CNN/Lou Dobbs Tonight, Bloomberg News and Containerisation International.*

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

- ***Three International Airline Companies Agree to Plead Guilty to Price Fixing on Air Cargo Shipments***
On April 9, 2009, Cargolux Airlines International S.A., Nippon Cargo Airlines Co. Ltd and Asiana Airlines Inc. each agreed to plead guilty and pay criminal fines totaling \$214 million for conspiring to fix prices in the air cargo industry. Asiana was also charged with and pled guilty to fixing the passenger fares charged on flights from the United States to Korea.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Candidate interviews are ongoing, with multiple interviews scheduled for next week.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

Nothing to Report

Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 25-26, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached at (202) 267-3333.

Department of Transportation
For the Week of April 27, 2009

SECRETARY AND SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

- ***Secretary LaHood to Address ACEC.***
On Monday, April 27, Secretary LaHood will address the American Council of Engineering Companies in Washington, DC. He will provide an update on implementation of ARRA and opportunities for the engineering sector in recovery projects.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Address Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber.***
On Monday, April 27, Secretary LaHood will address the Sacramento, CA, Chamber of Commerce "Capital to Capital" annual breakfast in Washington, DC. He will discuss progress on projects related to ARRA.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Speak to NASHTU.***
On Tuesday, April 28, Secretary LaHood will speak to the National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions' conference in Washington, DC. He will honor NASHTU's members and provide an update on ARRA.
- ***Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee Hearing.***
On Tuesday, April 28, Secretary LaHood will testify before a hearing on setting the stage for reauthorization of National Surface Transportation Policy.
- ***Secretary LaHood to Address National Chamber Foundation.***
On Wednesday, April 29, Secretary LaHood will address the National Chamber Foundation's 8th Annual Aviation Summit in Washington, DC. He will provide an overview of aviation initiatives related to ARRA and other aviation policies issues, such as NextGen.
- ***House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing***
On Wednesday, April 29, Secretary LaHood and Inspector General Scovel will testify before a hearing titled, "Recovery Act: 10-Week Progress Report for Transportation and Infrastructure Programs."
- ***Senate Appropriations and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing.***
On Thursday, April 30, Secretary LaHood will testify at a hearing held by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development on the implementation status of ARRA funds at DOT.
- ***Secretary LaHood DOT Townhall.***
On Friday, May 1, Secretary LaHood will hold a town hall meeting with DOT employees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, RELEASES, AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- ***Aviation Industry Performance Report***
By April 30, we expect to issue the tenth in a series of updates to our Aviation Industry Performance Report. The performance metrics were developed in 2002 as a mechanism for monitoring aviation industry trends, including domestic demand and capacity, aviation system performance, airline finances, and air service in large and small communities.
- ***PHMSA Participates in UN Series 6 Testing of 1.4S Explosives***
From April 27-28, PHMSA, along with representatives from Federal Aviation Administration, will participate in a demonstration of United Nations Series 6 Testing of 1.4S explosives in Godley, Texas.
- ***Average Air Fares Data Release***
Air Fare Data for the fourth-quarter of 2008 will be released April 29. The release combines average air fare data with BTS' Air Travel Price Index (ATPI).
- ***Pediatrician Injury Prevention Committee***
On April 26-27, NHTSA staff will provide guidance on child passenger protection to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Injury, Violence and Poisoning Prevention at its bi-annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. NHTSA is one of five Federal agencies with non-voting liaison status on the committee, which develops formal policies and counseling recommendations on child transportation safety for its membership of more than 60,000 pediatricians nationwide.
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- ***FAA Official to Visit Japan to Sign a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement***
On April 25-28, 2009, Dorothy B. Reimold, Acting Assistant Administrator for International Aviation, will travel to Tokyo, Japan, to represent the Acting FAA Administrator at the signing of a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA) and the BASA Implementation Procedures for Airworthiness (IPA) with the Government of Japan. The BASA, which has been in negotiation for several years, is an important element of the FAA's bilateral aviation relationship with Japan.

AGENCY PRESS ACTIVITY

- Trade and general interest media continue to request updates on Mexican cross-border trucking. Outlets include: *Inside U.S. Trade, Transport Topics, Reuter, The Trucker, CNN/Lou Dobbs Tonight, Bloomberg News* and *Containerisation International*.
- On Tuesday, April 28, Secretary LaHood will have lunch with syndicated columnist Mark Shields, who will gather material for a future column.
- Helicopter Emergency Safety Services: We expect the April 22 House aviation subcommittee hearing to spark news media interest and follow-up questions. The *Wall Street Journal* already ran a story leading up to the hearing, and that in itself has triggered further press interest.

REFORM-BASED ACTIONS

Nothing to report

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Beth Osborne joins the Department as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy.

Mark Paustenbach joins the Department as the Communications Director at NHTSA.

Maureen Knightly joins the Department as the Deputy Director of Public Affairs.

Candidate interviews are ongoing, with multiple interviews scheduled for next week.

POTENTIAL OR EXPECTED LEGAL ISSUES

- On April 15, 2009, RITA received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from the *Washington Times* that asked for copies of any and all correspondence between

members of Congress and RITA between December 1, 2008 and March 15, 2009. The request asked for both incoming and outgoing records. The RITA Chief Counsel's Office is compiling the information so that a formal response can be made.

Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 25-26, Chief of Staff Joan DeBoer will be the contact. She can be reached at (202) 267-3333.