



Memorandum

Date: September 9, 2020

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | Assessment of DOT Plans for Returning Employees to Federal Offices in the Wake of the Coronavirus Pandemic | Project No. 20P1001P000
Department of Transportation

From: Charles A. Ward 
Assistant Inspector General for Audit Operations and Special Reviews

To: Assistant Secretary for Administration

On May 26, 2020, the Department of Transportation (DOT) released its "Framework for DOT's Return to Normal Operations" (Framework), with the purpose of focusing on the welfare of the Department's employees and contractors. The Framework provides guidance to DOT leadership for the planning and implementation of the Department's return to normal operations in the wake of the public health emergency associated with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). More specifically, it describes DOT's plans to transition in phases back to normal operations from its posture of maximum teleworking. According to the Framework, the plans are in accordance with guidelines for safe reopening issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and incorporate advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the General Services Administration (GSA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform asked us to examine DOT's plans for returning employees to Federal offices in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Accordingly, we will conduct an assessment of DOT's "Framework for Return to Normal Operations" to (1) determine the extent to which it is in accord with guidance for safe reopening from OMB and OPM and incorporates advice from CDC, GSA, and OSHA; (2) identify the initial actions DOT has taken to transition personnel safely back to their normal duty stations.

We plan to begin the assessment shortly and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our work at DOT Headquarters and other sites as needed. If you have any questions, please contact me at (206) 462-0579.

cc: The Deputy Secretary
DOT Audit Liaison, M-1