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## Memorandum

Date: October 15, 2018

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | FMCSA's Corrective Action Plan for National Academy of Sciences Correlation Study on Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement | Project No. 18S3006S000  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

From: Barry J. DeWeese  
Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits

To: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator

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The commercial motor carrier industry plays a vital role in the Nation's economy, carrying nearly 70 percent of goods shipped to consumers and businesses. In recent years, the number of large trucks and buses on the roads has increased, as have safety issues related to these vehicles. Fatalities in crashes involving large trucks or buses grew from 4,397 in 2012 to 4,844 in 2017, a 10.2-percent increase.

Since December 2010, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has monitored the safety practices of motor carriers through its Compliance, Safety, and Accountability Program (CSA) and its Safety Measurement System (SMS). FMCSA uses SMS to evaluate carrier performance information obtained from roadside inspections, crash reports, compliance reviews, and other data.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (FAST Act)<sup>1</sup> required FMCSA to commission the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to study the SMS data and methodology used in the CSA program. In a report issued on June 27, 2017, NAS made six recommendations to help FMCSA improve its data, update the current methodology, and enhance transparency.

Additionally, the FAST Act required FMCSA to give the Office of Inspector General (OIG) a corrective action plan that (1) responds to deficiencies or opportunities identified in the NAS report, (2) identifies how FMCSA will address such deficiencies or opportunities, and (3) provides a cost estimate regarding any changes FMCSA must make to staffing, enforcement, and data collection to

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<sup>1</sup> Pub. L. No. 114-94.

address the deficiencies and opportunities. The FAST Act mandated that OIG review the extent to which the corrective action plan addresses the NAS recommendations and any relevant recommendations that OIG or the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued before the law was enacted. Finally, OIG is required to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure that addresses the responsiveness of FMCSA's corrective action plan to the 2017 NAS report.

Accordingly, our audit objectives are to (1) assess the extent to which FMCSA's corrective action plan addresses the NAS recommendations and relevant OIG and GAO recommendations and (2) identify challenges FMCSA may face when implementing the corrective action plan.

We plan to begin the audit immediately and will coordinate with your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our audit at FMCSA Headquarters and other selected locations. If you have questions, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or Kerry R. Barras, Program Director, at (817) 978-3318.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1  
FMCSA Audit Liaison, MCPRS