



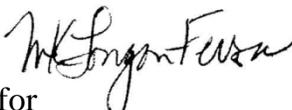
Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement—
Volpe's Management of the Transportation
Information Project Support Contract
Project Number 14Z3001Z000

Date: December 19, 2013

From: Mary Kay Langan-Feirson 
Assistant Inspector General for
Acquisition and Procurement Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-60

To: Administrator, Research and Innovative
Technology Administration

The Volpe National Transportation Center (Volpe) is a Federal, fee-for-service organization¹ within the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) with 550 Federal employees, as well as over 400 onsite contractors. Each year, Volpe spends approximately \$250 million — based on DOT and non-DOT customer requests and associated fees—to perform a wide range of transportation related systems research and applications development. One vehicle that Volpe relies on to provide information technology services for its customers is a specialized multiple award service contract known as Volpe's Transportation Information Project Support (V-TRIPS). Volpe awarded this 5-year, \$234 million contract to five vendors in 2010.

Our past work on large service contracts² found that agencies do not always ensure adequate competition or provide sufficient oversight of contractor performance. Accordingly, our audit objective will be to determine whether Volpe (1) awarded the base V-TRIPS contract under competitive procedures and provides each awardee fair opportunities for subsequent task orders and (2) administers and oversees the contract in accordance with Federal and DOT acquisition regulations.

We plan to start the audit the week of January 27, 2014, and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or require

¹ As a fee-for-service organization, Volpe receives no direct congressional appropriations. Instead, Volpe conducts business through a working capital fund and generates revenue by providing services to DOT and non-DOT customers.

² See, for example, *FAA's Contracting Practices Are Insufficient To Effectively Manage Its Systems Engineering 2020 Contracts* (OIG Report Number ZA-2012-082), Mar. 28, 2012. OIG reports are available on our Web site at <http://oig.dot.gov>.

additional information, please contact me at (202) 366-5225 or Darren Murphy, Program Director, at (206) 220-6503.

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cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
RITA Audit Liaison, RTC-1