



Memorandum

Date: March 10, 2022

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | DOT's Oversight of Time Zones and Daylight Saving Time | Project No. 22S3002S000
Department of Transportation

From: Dave Pouliott 
Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits

To: Assistant Secretary for Administration

In response to commerce impacts and transportation safety issues related to inconsistent time standards across the Nation, Congress enacted the Uniform Time Act of 1966 to standardize Daylight Saving Time (DST) and existing time zones. The act, as amended, gave the Department of Transportation (DOT) certain authorities over time zones and DST, such as issuing orders defining the geographic boundaries of the times zones established by Congress.

Since 2015, at least 45 States have proposed legislation either to change their observance of DST or to establish permanent standard time. For example, three States recently introduced bills to effectively adopt year-round DST by moving to an earlier standard time zone. However, DOT has not recently exercised its authority. The last DOT approval of a time zone change was over 10 years ago, in 2010, and applied to a single county. Given the recent State activity and potential impact of time zone changes on transportation safety, we are initiating an audit with a limited scope to assess DOT's processes for evaluating and responding to requests from States and localities for time zone changes and DST exemptions.

We plan to begin this audit immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. A list of meeting topics and an initial document request are attached. We will conduct our work primarily at DOT Headquarters. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-1844 or Wendy Harris, Program Director, at (202) 366-2794. For media inquiries, please contact OIG's Office of Government and Public Affairs at (202) 366-8751 or Public.Affairs@oig.dot.gov.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1