



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

The Inspector General

Office of Inspector General
Washington, DC 20590

June 7, 2016

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Johnson and Grassley:

This is in response to your letter to the Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Inspector General (OIG) dated February 27, 2015, requesting information semiannually on the status of OIG open audit recommendations.¹ Specifically, you requested the following: (1) the current number of open recommendations, their dates, and cumulative estimated cost savings; (2) a description of all audits and investigations provided to the Agency for comment that did not receive a response within 60 days; (3) a report on each investigation involving GS-15 level employees (or equivalent) and above where misconduct was found but no prosecution resulted; (4) a description of any instances of whistleblower retaliation and any consequences imposed by the Agency; (5) a description of any attempts to interfere with our independence, including restricting our communications with Congress and budgetary constraints designed to limit our capabilities; (6) a description of any instances where the Department restricted or significantly delayed our access to information; and (7) a description of all closed audits and investigations that were not disclosed to the public. Unless otherwise indicated below, the following responses relay information concerning the first semiannual reporting period for fiscal year 2016.²

¹ Open recommendations include those for which the Department or an agency has either (1) concurred and proposed action plans but has yet to complete implementation, (2) completed the planned actions but has yet to provide us with supporting documentation, or (3) nonconcurred.

² October 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016.

OIG Open Recommendations and Associated Estimated Cost Savings

As of April 1, 2016, we identified 555 open recommendations, which were included in 190 audit reports issued between July 18, 2007, and March 28, 2016. Of these, 35 recommendations (from 28 reports) carry an estimated monetary benefit or cost savings totaling over \$1.5 billion.³ The enclosed document provides detailed information on these 555 recommendations.

Audits and Investigations Provided to the Agency for Comment Where No Agency Response Was Received Within 60 Days

We work closely with the Department to ensure timely responses to our draft audit reports. Of the 15 audit reports issued in draft for Agency comment during the reporting period, all Agency responses were received within 60 calendar days.

It is not our practice to submit OIG investigations for review and comment by the Department. Consequently, we did not refer any closed investigations to DOT for comment during the reporting period.

Investigations Involving GS-15 Level Employees (or Equivalent) and Above Where Misconduct Was Found but No Prosecution Resulted

We did not close any investigations during the reporting period that involved GS-15 level employees (or equivalent) and above where misconduct was found but no prosecution resulted.

Whistleblower Retaliation and Agency Action

We did not close any investigations during the reporting period in which a DOT employee had been retaliated against for protected whistleblowing.

Interference with OIG Independence

We did not encounter any instances during the reporting period where DOT attempted to interfere with OIG independence, including either restricting communications between OIG and Congress or imposing budgetary constraints designed to limit the capabilities of OIG.

Delays and Access to Information

If we encounter delays and lack of timeliness in obtaining Agency documents, we work with Department officials at the proper level to resolve them. When appropriate, access and delay issues and their impact on the scope of our work are documented in our reports. We have no such instances to report for this period.

³ This figure includes funds that could be put to better use and questioned costs.

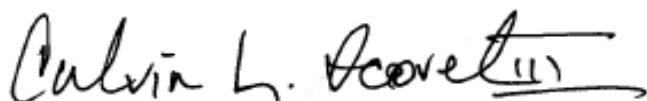
Closed Audits and Investigations Not Disclosed to the Public

It is our practice to post all closed non-sensitive audits and evaluations on our public Web site.⁴ Consequently, we have no previously undisclosed audits and evaluations to report. Additionally, we have included information concerning closed, non-public investigations in our *Semiannual Report to Congress* for this reporting period, and we can provide additional information on any of these closed investigations upon request.

We remain committed to supporting the Department through our objective and independent audits and investigations to improve the management and execution of programs and protect resources from fraud, waste, abuse, and violations of law.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at (202) 366-1959 or Nathan Richmond, Director and Counsel for Congressional and External Affairs, at (202) 493-0422.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calvin L. Scovel III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Calvin L. Scovel III
Inspector General

Enclosure

⁴ OIG reports are available on our Web site: <https://www.oig.dot.gov>.