



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

The Inspector General

Office of Inspector General  
Washington, D.C. 20590

January 23, 2006

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to submit my resignation as Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation, effective February 11, 2006. I have held this position since 1997, which is a substantial tenure for an Inspector General at a cabinet-level agency. It has been a great honor to serve during your Administration and that of former President Clinton. The opportunities to see positive outcomes and results for the traveling public and taxpayer have been enormously satisfying. I want to pay special tribute to the fine men and women of the Inspector General staff as well as Secretary Mineta and his leadership team.

Each day I reflect on what a privilege it is to be a part of the achievements of the very capable and dedicated Inspector General staff. This staff has a steady moral compass and I will always remember this as a model in my future endeavors. They are determined in their pursuit of safer, more secure and efficient transportation programs and zealous in protecting the taxpayers' interests in preventing fraud, waste, or abuse and in attacking it when it occurs. Their contributions are exceptional and worth many times over the investment the Congress and Administration make in this critical oversight function.

I also wish to express the deepest of appreciation and respect for Secretary Norman Mineta and former Secretary Rodney Slater and their leadership teams for their support and responsiveness on every front. From several standpoints, the last five years in particular have been tumultuous ones for transportation and I believe our country was most fortunate to have Secretary Mineta at the helm, especially on 9/11 and the period thereafter. I also am most appreciative of the support of Congress during my tenure, in the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats alike.

The Inspector General mission is best served by the preservation of Inspector General independence in auditing, evaluating, and in conducting criminal investigations, but it is important to maintain a focus on preventing problems from occurring in the first place and, when they do occur, work with the Secretary and his team, and frequently the Congress, to constructively devise and implement a solution. This is what the traveling public and general taxpayer expect. I salute the Secretary as well as my staff for ensuring that such an environment exists at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Congress has reinforced this as well. To take on the challenges that today face the transportation community as well as those that lay ahead, this environment will need to continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth M. Mead  
Inspector General