



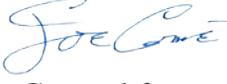
Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement—
Audit of NHTSA's Stewardship and Oversight of
Highway Safety Grants
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Project No. 12M3005M000

Date: December 10, 2012

From: Joseph W. Comé 
Assistant Inspector General for
Highway and Transit Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-40

To: National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator

The Department's top priority is to make our transportation system safer. While highway fatalities declined by over 25 percent since 2005, motor vehicle safety remains an ongoing safety concern.¹ In fiscal year 2011, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) awarded \$601 million in formula and incentive grants to States for conducting a wide range of highway safety programs aimed at reducing fatalities, injuries, and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes.

Our objective will be to assess NHTSA's oversight of Federal highway safety grants provided to States. Specifically, we will determine whether (1) NHTSA Headquarters provides sufficient guidance to and monitoring of its regional offices for grant oversight activities and (2) NHTSA regional offices effectively use oversight tools to ensure grantee deficiencies are timely identified and addressed.

We plan to begin this audit in January 2013, and will conduct it at NHTSA Headquarters and regional offices and selected State highway safety offices. We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference and to provide further details of the audit. If I can answer any questions or be of further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or Kerry R. Barras, Program Director, at (817) 978-3318.

cc: NHTSA Audit Liaison, NPO-310
DOT Audit Liaison, M-1

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¹ Based on September 2012 NHTSA data on actual or projected fatalities through 2011. NHTSA also reported that its statistical projection of traffic fatalities for the first half of 2012 shows an estimated 9-percent increase in fatalities over the number projected to have occurred in the first half of 2011.