



# Memorandum

**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation  
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –  
Department of Transportation's Oversight of the  
TIGER Discretionary Grant Program  
Project No. 11U3001M000

Date: October 22, 2010

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

Reply to  
Attn. of: JA-40

To: Under Secretary for Policy  
Federal Highway Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administrator  
Federal Transit Administrator  
Maritime Administrator

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) appropriated \$1.5 billion to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the purpose of awarding competitive discretionary grants for capital investments in surface transportation projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. To manage these grants, DOT created the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program. In February 2010, the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) selected 51 TIGER grant recipients, and transferred direct oversight responsibility for the selected grant projects to the appropriate Operating Administrations, as permitted under ARRA. However, OST is ultimately responsible for developing policies and procedures, ensuring that the Operating Administrations provide effective oversight of their TIGER projects, and reporting on the program's impact.

Ineffective oversight could result in TIGER projects not fully meeting ARRA goals and requirements and increase the risk of fraud, waste, or abuse. Accordingly, the Office of Inspector General plans to audit the Department's oversight of the TIGER discretionary grant program. The objectives of this audit are to evaluate the effectiveness of (1) OST's management of the TIGER program, including the performance measures for determining the economic and transportation-related

impact of each project and (2) each Operating Administration's oversight of its respective TIGER projects.

We plan to begin this audit the week of October 25, 2010. We will conduct our work at DOT Headquarters and other related sites, as needed. We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If I can answer any questions or be of further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-5630, or Gary Middleton, Program Director, at (202) 366-0625.

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cc: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy  
Audit Liaison, OST, M-1  
Audit Liaison, FHWA, HAIM-13  
Audit Liaison, FRA  
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