



## THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20590

January 23, 2015

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** All U.S. Department of Transportation Employees

**From:** Anthony R. Foxx 

**Subject:** Ongoing Cooperation with the Office of Inspector General

---

The mission of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is to serve the United States by ensuring a fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future. As employees of DOT, each of us, including the Inspector General, plays a critical role in fulfilling this mission. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is a crucial and valued part of the Department and is responsible for pursuing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in Departmental programs and operations, as well as for preventing and detecting waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

Consistent with law and the Department's longstanding practice of supporting the work of the Inspector General, I want to remind you that the Department and its employees have a duty to cooperate with the OIG, as that office fulfills its responsibilities under the Inspector General Act (the IG Act). Cooperation includes, but is not limited to, providing information and assistance consistent with the terms of the IG Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 3 § 6, in a timely manner. Among other things, the IG Act authorizes "the Inspector General... to have access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other material available to the Department relating to its programs and operations." 5 U.S.C. App. 3 § 6(a)(1).

Information to which the Inspector General has access may include information that may be privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under the law, such as the Freedom of Information Act or the Privacy Act. In providing privileged or confidential information to the Inspector General's office, Department employees should identify and clearly mark such information. The OIG will treat such information in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations. Providing such information to the OIG will not constitute a waiver of any privileges that may attach to the information. In addition to the IG Act, DOT Orders 8000.6B, 8000.5A, and 8000.8 provide a summary of the policies and procedures applicable to OIG audits, investigations, and other reviews, including interaction between the OIG and Departmental offices.

Finally, as a reminder, reprisals against employees who provide such information or report allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse to OIG are against the law and Departmental policy. If you have any questions about your obligations to cooperate with requests by authorized representatives of the OIG or regarding the OIG's legal authority, you may contact your supervisor, the Department's Office of Audit Relations, the Office of General Counsel, or your Operating Administration's Audit Liaison or Chief Counsel's Office.

I sincerely thank you for your invaluable contributions to this Department and for continuing to ensure that the OIG is able to carry out its responsibilities for the benefit of the Department, the Federal Government, and the American people.