




## Memorandum

Date: December 20, 2023

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | DOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy Implementation | Project No. 23S3006S000  
Department of Transportation

From: David Pouliott   
Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits

To: Assistant Secretary for Administration  
Federal Highway Administrator  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator

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In 2022, there were nearly 43,000 motor vehicle traffic fatalities—a 14.2 percent surge since 2017.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, over 5,500 large truck and bus fatalities occurred in 2022 and have remained above 5,000 annually since 2017.<sup>2</sup> To help prevent and minimize crashes and their effects, the Department of Transportation (DOT) issued its National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) in January 2022. The NRSS is a collaborative effort between the Office of the Secretary of Transportation and the surface transportation Operating Administrations (OA) and includes priority actions in pursuit of five core objectives: Safer People, Safer Roads, Safer Vehicles, Safer Speeds, and Post-Crash Care. According to the NRSS, implementation of priority actions includes launching new programs, coordinating and improving existing programs, adopting a foundational set of principles to guide the strategy, and providing decision makers with a broad understanding of the value of NRSS priority actions to help prevent crashes.<sup>3</sup>

We are initiating this audit due to DOT's new and comprehensive approach towards traffic safety and its goal for the NRSS to help decrease fatalities over the next few years. Our objective is to evaluate DOT OAs' implementation of NRSS priority actions, monitoring of progress, and measurements of success.

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<sup>1</sup> National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, *Traffic Safety Facts*, April 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, *Motor Carrier Safety Progress Reports*, March 2020–June 2023.

<sup>3</sup> DOT, *National Roadway Safety Strategy*.

We plan to begin the audit immediately and will contact your audit liaisons to schedule an entrance meeting. We plan to conduct our work at DOT Headquarters and selected OA field offices as necessary. If you have any questions, please contact me or Kerry R. Barras, Program Director.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1  
Federal Highway Administration Audit Liaison, HCFB-32  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Audit Liaison, MCPRS  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Audit Liaison,  
NPO-310