




Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: ACTION: Notification of Audit of NHTSA
Management of Research and Demonstration
Projects
Project Number 08M3010M000

Date: August 22, 2008

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

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-40

To: National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator

The Office of Inspector General plans to review the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) management of research and demonstration projects. NHTSA awards contracts and grants to states, universities, commercial entities, and non-profit organizations for their behavioral and vehicle safety research. NHTSA's budget for operations and research was approximately \$230 million annually for fiscal years 2005 through 2008.

The objectives of this audit are to determine whether NHTSA: (1) allocated research funds and selected projects based on their likelihood to reduce the number and severity of crashes or other targeting strategy; (2) systematically evaluated and disseminated project results to improve safety; and (3) used a risk-based internal control framework for its oversight of research contractors and grantees as a means to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

We plan to begin our audit immediately. We will conduct the audit at NHTSA offices in Washington, D.C., selected NHTSA regional offices, and state highway safety offices. We will contact your liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or Kerry R. Barras, Program Director, at (817) 978-3318.

cc: NHTSA Audit Liaison