



ORGANIZATION

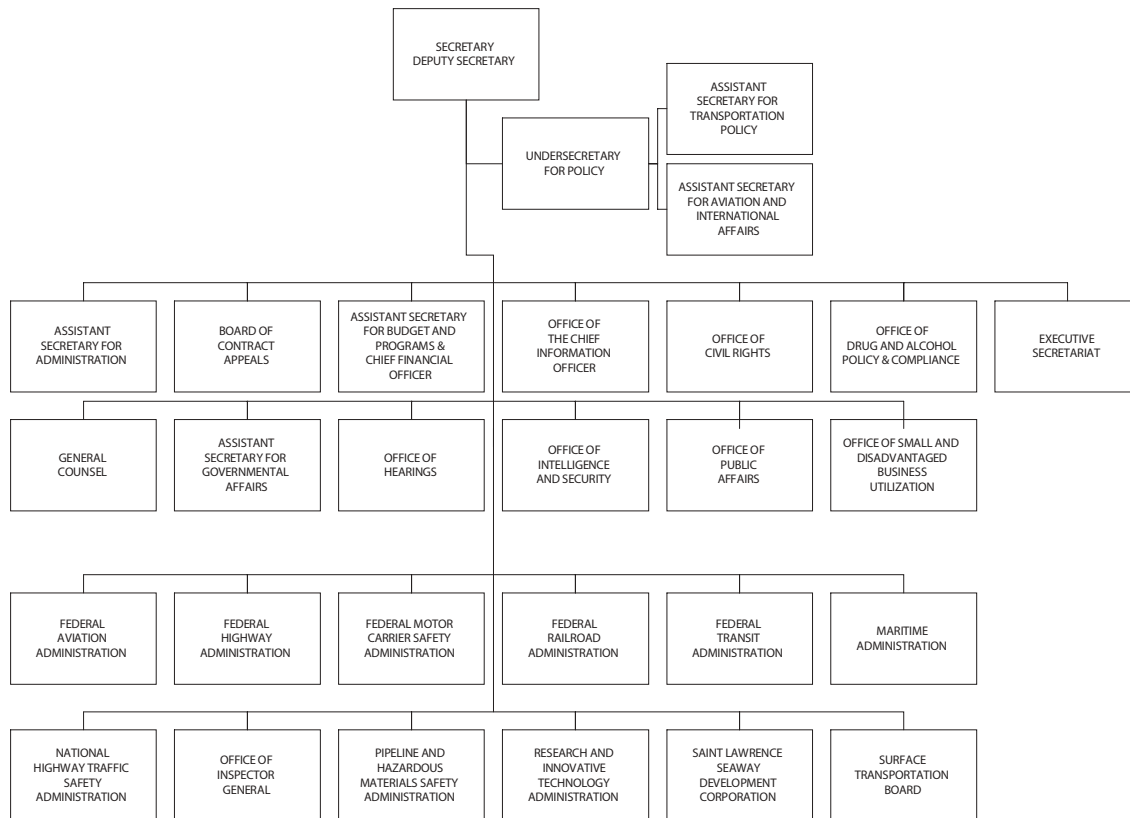
HISTORY

Established in 1967, DOT sets Federal transportation policy and works with State, local, and private sector partners to promote a safe, secure, efficient, and interconnected National transportation system of roads, railways, pipelines, airways, and seaways. DOT’s overall objective of creating a safer, simpler, and smarter transportation program is the guiding principle as we move forward to achieve specific goals.

HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

DOT employs almost 60,000 people across the country, in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) and through twelve Operating Administrations (OAs) and bureaus, each with its own management and organizational structure.

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation provides overall leadership and management direction, administers aviation economic programs, and provides administrative support. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Surface Transportation Board (STB), while formally part of DOT, are independent by law.





OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES

The DOT strategic plan summarizes the legislative authorities of each Operating Administration. To provide a context for the reader, the highlights of the responsibilities of each OA are listed below.

Office of the Secretary. The Office of the Secretary (OST) oversees the formulation of National transportation policy and promotes intermodal transportation. Other responsibilities range from negotiation and implementation of international transportation agreements, assuring the fitness of U.S. airlines, enforcing airline consumer protection regulations, issuance of regulations to prevent alcohol and illegal drug misuse in transportation systems and preparing transportation legislation.

Federal Aviation Administration. The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) mission is to promote aviation safety and mobility by building, maintaining, and operating the Nation's air traffic control system; overseeing commercial and general aviation safety through regulation and inspection; and providing assistance to improve the capacity and safety of our airports.

Federal Highway Administration. The mission of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is to enhance mobility through innovation, leadership, and public service.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) primary mission is to prevent commercial motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries.

Federal Railroad Administration. The Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) mission is to ensure that our Nation has safe, secure, and efficient rail transportation that enhances the quality of life for all.

Federal Transit Administration. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides leadership, technical assistance, and financial resources for safe, technologically advanced public transportation that enhances mobility and accessibility, improves America's communities, preserves the natural environment, advances economic growth, and ensures that transit systems are prepared to function during and after criminal or terrorist attack.

Maritime Administration. The Maritime Administration's (MARAD) mission is to promote the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced U.S. merchant marine that is sufficient to carry the Nation's domestic waterborne commerce and a substantial portion of its waterborne foreign commerce, and to serve as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or National emergency.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) mission is to save lives, prevent injuries and reduce economic costs due to road traffic crashes through education, research, safety standards, and enforcement activity. The agency conducts critical behavioral and vehicular programs, and provides grants to the States for the administration of highway traffic safety programs.

Office of Inspector General. The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, established the Office of Inspector General (OIG) as an independent and objective organization within the DOT. The OIG's mission is to promote economy, effectiveness, and efficiency and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in DOT operations and programs by conducting and supervising independent and objective audits and investigations.



Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is dedicated to safety and security by working toward the elimination of transportation-related deaths and injuries in hazardous materials and pipeline transportation, and by promoting transportation solutions that enhance communities and protect the natural environment.

Research and Innovative Technology Administration. The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) is dedicated solely to the advancement of DOT priorities for innovation and research in transportation technologies and concepts. Innovations that will improve our mobility, promote economic growth, and ultimately deliver a better integrated transportation system.

Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. The U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC), a wholly owned government corporation and an OA of DOT, is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway between Montreal and Lake Erie.

Surface Transportation Board. The Surface Transportation Board (STB) is charged with promoting substantive and procedural regulatory reform in the economic regulation of surface transportation, and with providing an efficient and effective forum for the resolution of disputes and the facilitation of appropriate business transactions.