

I am pleased to present the Open Government Plan for the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). We proudly publish this plan in accordance with the President's January 21, 2009, Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government and the Office of Management and Budget's December 8, 2009, Open Government Directive.

The DOT is responsible for ensuring a fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life for the American people. In order to achieve this core mission and to better serve our citizens, we believe that it is essential to increase transparency, public engagement, and collaboration in our daily operations.

Since its inception in 1967, DOT has emphasized open communication with States, municipalities, public officials, grantees, and others members of the public with whom we conduct business. The initiatives outlined in our Open Government Plan are designed to continue and enhance this tradition by instituting changes in DOT's policy, culture, and technology. We believe that the changes described below will help make the Department even more open and accessible.

Our plan was developed by a diverse, multimodal with support from both executive leadership and individual employees. The plan serves as a blueprint for making improvements by: encouraging more effective public participation in rulemaking, releasing high-value data sets, soliciting public comment via the Internet, providing tools for employees to discuss their innovative ideas, and instilling Open Government principles in our business culture.

We at DOT view the issuance of this plan as just a beginning. We are committed to ensuring that the DOT Open Government Plan serves as a foundation for continued innovation in the areas of transparency, participation, and collaboration now and in the future. We welcome your comments and encourage you to send your feedback on this plan to open@dot.gov.

Sincerely yours,

John D. Porcari