




Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Termination Notification—
Management of the Research Program
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Project No. 08M3010M000

Date: June 17, 2010

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

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-40

To: National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator

On August 22, 2008, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced its audit of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) management of its research program. The announced objectives were 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 are terminating this audit because:

- our audit scope was limited to the extent that financial and acquisitions management data on research projects was incomplete and not supported by a system of records and
- congressional requests related to the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save (CARS) program and the Office of Defects Investigation required us to redeploy our resources.

We recently briefed members of your senior staff on our observations and best practices to date for their consideration. We will notify you of any future audit of this area.

We appreciate the courtesies and cooperation of NHTSA representatives during our audit. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this cancelled audit, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or Kerry R. Barras, Program Director, at (817) 978-3345.

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