



Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Audit of
Oversight of Alcohol-Impaired Driving Programs,
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Project No. 05M3002M000

Date: December 14, 2004

From: Debra S. Ritt *Debra S. Ritt*
Assistant Inspector General for
Surface and Maritime Programs

Reply to: JA-40
Attn of:

To: National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator

As directed by the Fiscal Year 2005 House and Senate Department of Transportation Committees on Appropriations, the Office of Inspector General plans to perform an audit of Federal and state efforts to reduce alcohol-related injuries and fatalities. In directing this audit, the Committees expressed concern that despite the combined efforts of Federal and state safety officials, 2003 was the sixth consecutive year with no discernable progress in reducing alcohol-related crashes and fatalities

The objectives of this audit are to (1) identify the defining characteristics that constitute alcohol-related crashes; (2) compare the scope, direction, resources, and expenditures of programs and activities of those states with the highest and lowest alcohol-related fatalities, including the use of high visibility law enforcement methods; and (3) determine Federal resources dedicated to this effort.

We plan to start this audit the week of December 13, 2004, and will contact your audit liaison to schedule a formal entrance conference. We will conduct audit work at National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Federal Highway Administration Headquarters and regional and division offices, and at selected state highway safety offices.

The Program Director for this audit is Michael E. Goldstein, and the Project Manager is Paulette Heggins-Carter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (202) 493-0331 or Mr. Goldstein, at (212) 264-8701.

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cc: Martin Gertel, M-1
Zahid Khawaja, NPP-10
Cynthia Thornton, HAIM-13
FHWA Administrator