

**Prepared Remarks for Scott Darling  
FMCSA Chief Counsel  
Meeting with Ohio Trucking Association  
June 4, 2015**

- **Thank you for coming** to Washington, D.C.
  
- I asked **Larry Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy** to join us.
  
- Before we get started, I want to personally **thank and your members** for all you do to power the economy. Americans **deserve a safe and effective transportation system** to deliver our goods and get us where we are going.
  
- **FMCSA's mission** is to save lives by reducing crashes and fatalities involving large trucks and buses.
  
- We are **guided by three principles**:
  - **Raising** the safety bar to enter the industry
  - **Requiring** carriers and drivers to maintain our high safety standards
  - **Removing** high risk carriers and drivers from the road

- With more than **4,000 fatalities per year** in crashes involving large trucks and buses, we have **more work to do**.
- Let me start the discussion with **a brief outline of some of the Agency's priorities for FY 2015:**

## **RULES**

- **Electronic Logging Devices** – We will publish a Final Rule this fiscal year. This rule will improve hours of service compliance and help business cut paperwork, costs.
- **Safety Fitness Determination** – We will publish a proposed rule by the end of the fiscal year to expand use of roadside inspection data, in addition to findings from investigations, to determine a carrier's Safety Rating.
- **Entry-Level Driver Training Advisory Committee** – Last week, I attended the final meeting of the ELDTAC that reached a consensus on recommendations to the Agency to move forward with a rulemaking.

## **INITIATIVES**

- **34-Hour Restart Study** -- We are in the data collection stage of a naturalistic study mandated by Congress in the 2015 Appropriations bill. We will complete the study by end of year.
  
- **Beyond Compliance** – We are thinking ahead about new ways to improve highway safety. We want your thoughts on three main things:
  - 1) What new safety technologies and safety management practices should we incentivize for early adoption?
  - 2) What incentives should we offer?
  - 3) How do we monitor compliance for early adopters?

We published a Federal Register Notice in April and the comment period closes on June 22. We encourage you to contribute your thoughts.

- **Driver Recognition** -- We are happy to be working with industry to recognize the huge numbers of safe drivers doing good work every day. Poster being created to hang in DOT HQ.

### **Other Points of Interest**

- **Crash Weighting** – We are looking at how to address the issue of weighting of crash data in the agency's systems based on the carrier's role in a crash.

- We submitted the report to Congress in January and published a Federal Register notice seeking public input on the next steps.
- The public comment period has closed and we **received 54 comments**. We encourage you to continue to share your thoughts.
  
- **Financial Responsibility** – We are gathering information but have not decided the next steps on the issue of financial responsibility for commercial carriers.
  - We issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) seeking public input and received more than **2,000 comments**.
  
- With that brief intro, I open the floor to discussion.