

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

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Why This Matters

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is responsible for securing the nation's transportation systems. TSA also participates in Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) efforts to identify and submit technology requirements and coordinate with other DHS internal stakeholders. Given that both TSA and S&T share responsibility, it is critical that they coordinate research and development efforts to ensure prioritization of the greatest threat and minimize duplication.

DHS Response

TSA concurred with the recommendation. TSA is documenting the Surface Research and Development Working Group (RDWG) processes, including the process for identifying capability gaps, which will then be attached as an appendix to the formal Surface RDWG charter.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov

Research and Development Efforts To Secure Rail Transit Systems

What We Determined

S&T and TSA are successful in identifying and consolidating capability gaps. In addition, S&T and TSA are effectively collaborating in research and development efforts to address mass transit security needs. The following area needs attention to improve the program:

- 1) TSA does not have written guidelines or directives to formalize the gap analysis process.

What We Recommend

We recommended that the TSA Office of Security Capabilities formally document the newly implemented process for identifying capability gaps to ensure consistency in future gap reviews.