

Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee (MCSAC) Task Statement

Task #08-01

I. TASK TITLE

Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization

II. BACKGROUND

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; ISTEA) is a federal law that posed a major change to transportation planning and policy, as the first U.S. federal legislation on the subject in the post-Interstate Highway System era. It presented an overall intermodal approach to highway and transit funding with collaborative planning requirements, giving significant additional powers to metropolitan planning organizations. Signed into law on December 18, 1991, it expired in 1997. It was preceded by the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 and followed by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and most recently in 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). TEA-21 was enacted on June 9, 1998, Public Law 105-178, and authorized the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 6-year period from 1998-2003. SAFETEA-LU was enacted August 10, 2005, as Public Law 109-59, and authorized the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009. SAFETEA-LU expires in 2009. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is in the planning phase for the next reauthorization cycle.

III. TASK

The Committee should provide a priority list of safety provisions for inclusion in FMCSA's statutory program based on:

- a. recommendations issued to the Agency from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General (OIG), and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB); and,
- b. input from each committee member's respective constituency.

IV. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK

- a. The Committee should submit a report on recommendations issued to the Agency from GAO, OIG, and NTSB, that should be included in FMCSA's statutory program at the March 2008 meeting.
- b. The Committee should submit a report outlining the priority list of safety provisions for inclusion in FMCSA's statutory program at the June 2008 Committee meeting.

V. FMCSA TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES

J. Greg Parks, Acting Chief, Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation Division (MC-PRS), FMCSA, 202-366-5370, greg.parks@dot.gov.

Shannon Watson, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Legislation Division (MC-AGL), FMCSA, 202-493-0030, shannon.watson@dot.gov.

Attachment:

List of open recommendations issued to FMCSA from GAO, OIG, and NTS