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CREATOR: Patrice Newman ( Patrice Newman [ UNKNOWN ] )

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SUBJECT: White House Weekly

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:  
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CAROL M. BROWNER

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for March 20, 1997

#### KEY AGENCY NEWS

Visit to Kramer Middle School, DC: As part of EPA's efforts to assist the District of Columbia in protecting public health and the environment, on Friday 3/21, Administrator Browner will visit Kramer Middle School for Environmental Studies in Southeast DC. She will attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the school's new computer laboratory. The computer lab was built with a \$24,000 grant from EPA. The students will assess environmental information on the computers including water quality information for the nearby Anacostia River and its wetlands.

Exxon Valdez Funds for Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Cleanup: On 3/19, Administrator Browner joined Governor Glendening to announce funds from the Exxon Valdez settlement for three Chesapeake Bay cleanup and restoration projects.

Agreement with 3M on Kitchen Sponges: On March 13, EPA ordered Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. (3M) to stop selling and distributing several kitchen sponges whose labels made claims about the sponges ability to kill germs. Because of these claims, the sponges are considered pesticides and must be registered by EPA and the company must show EPA that the product works. 3M did not meet these requirements, and EPA took action out of concern that the labels could mislead consumers on an important public health issue. The company initially and vociferously protested EPA's action. However, following negotiations with the company, we have agreed to allow 3M to sell the existing stocks of their sponges, provided they place small placards in stores warning that their claims haven't been proven. The company has also agreed to change the packaging and advertising of future stocks of these products or register and prove these claims to EPA.

Resolution of Audit Legislation Dispute with Texas: On 3/19 EPA successfully resolved its dispute with the state of Texas over state legislation which shelters the results of audits businesses conduct of

their environmental compliance from the public and which grants immunity from enforcement to companies that conduct such audits. Working closely with Texas, we have agreed to some modest changes to the Texas law that will ensure that the state retains appropriate environmental enforcement authorities while still retaining a strong incentive for companies to audit their practices and self correct violations. EPA is working with a number of other states where state audit laws jeopardize the ability of the state to carry out an environmental enforcement program, or where the law would shield important environmental information from the public. While these disputes have not yet received extensive public attention, they are one of the major areas of contention between EPA and the states. Our mutually agreeable resolution of the issue with Texas will be seen as a significant step in improving our relationship with the states on this issue.

## WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

DPC Brownfields meeting: On 3/19 Administrator Browner and Bruce Reed briefed the Domestic Policy Council on the Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda. EPA has worked closely with more than 15 Federal agencies to expand significantly the Administration's Brownfields Initiative. Through the Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda the Administration will demonstrate positive action to move the country forward, a commitment to revitalizing communities and environmental leadership. In addition to the National Action Agenda, EPA will soon select twenty-five new brownfields grants of \$200,000 each to cities across the country.

Brownfields Legislation Press Conferences: On 3/19, Administrator Browner joined Congressman Gephardt and other members of Congress to unveil brownfields legislation. The legislation would establish a grant program for the inventory and assessment of brownfields sites; provide grants to capitalize revolving loan funds for the cleanup of sites; create State voluntary cleanup programs; and clarify the Superfund law so that prospective purchasers of brownfield sites are not found liable. The Administrator discussed the importance of brownfields legislation in cleaning up industrial sites and revitalizing communities across the United States.

On 3/17, Deputy Administrator Hansen participated in a press event with Senators Lieberman and Dodd and Congresswoman DeLauro in New Haven, CT on the Senate brownfields tax incentive legislation. The Clinton Administration strongly supports this legislation, which you announced in a major address on the environment in Kalamazoo, MI last August.

## CONGRESS

### Legislative Action this Week

- On 3/12, Sen. Brownback (KS) introduced the Congressional Responsibility Act. Rep. Hayworth (AZ) introduced a companion bill in the House.
- On 3/12, Rep. Patrick Kennedy (RI) introduced a Solid Waste

Disposal Act Amendment to address tire recycling.

- On 3/12, Reps. Shays (CT) and Maloney (CT) introduced the Financial Assistance for Cleanup & Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites Act.
- On 3/13, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski, AK) approved the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (addressing the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository.)
- On 3/14, Sen. Chafee (RI) introduced the Waste Tire Recycling Abatement & Disposal Act, to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act.
- On 3/14, Sen. Baucus (MT) introduced a Solid Waste Disposal Act Amendment to address interstate waste and flow control.
- On 3/17, Sen. Robb (VA) introduced a Solid Waste Disposal Act Amendment to address interstate waste.
- On 3/19, Administrator Browner participated in a press conference announcing the introduction of the Community Revitalization and Brownfields Cleanup Act. Reps. Gephardt (MO), Dingell (MI), Oberstar (MN), Manton (NY), Borski (PA), DeGette (CO), Johnson (WI), and Towns (NY) also participated in the event.
- On 3/19, Asst. Administrator for Policy Planning & Evaluation David Gardiner testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Subc. on Transportation and Infrastructure (Warner, VA) on the Administration's proposed reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

#### Meetings & Travel

- On 3/14, Administrator Browner traveled to New York City to meet with several editorial boards to discuss EPA's proposed strengthening of the standards for smog and soot.
- On 3/18, Administrator Browner met with Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX) to tape a cable show to be broadcast throughout the Dallas area. The Administrator discussed general environmental issues and their impact on Texas.
- On 3/19, Administrator Browner traveled to Annapolis, MD to participate in an event with Gov. Glendening. The Administrator announced funding of three local water projects. These are the first of 32 such projects that are funded by funds from the Exxon Valdez settlement.
- On 3/21, Administrator Browner will participate in an event at the Kramer Middle School in Washington, DC. She will be announcing the opening of the school's computer center that was established with a grant from EPA.
- On 3/25, Administrator Browner will travel to Cleveland, OH to speak to the Cleveland City Club.

#### Current Legislative Issues

Brownfields. Rep. Gephardt (MO) and Rep. Dingell's bill is similar to Sen. Lautenberg's Brownfields bill (S. 18). The House bill addresses many of the elements of EPA's current Brownfields reform effort. The legislation would establish a grant program for the inventory and assessment of sites; provide grants to capitalize revolving loan funds for the cleanup of sites; create State voluntary response programs; and clarify the Superfund law so that prospective purchasers of Brownfield sites are not found liable. EPA is currently reviewing this and Rep. Boehlert's (NY) Brownfields legislation.

Solid Waste Disposal Act -- Interstate Waste / Flow Control. Senator Baucus, bill will establish Congressional authority to restrict the importation of out-of-state waste. This bill would also permit State control of municipal waste. Senator Robb's bill solely addresses interstate waste. His bill would allow local and State governments to restrict the receipt of out-of-state municipal waste. On 3/18, Sen. Chafee (RI) held a hearing in the Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss the current State and local sentiment on these issues. Following the hearing, Senator Chafee concluded that the need for flow control legislation may be waning. He also seems reluctant to immediately address interstate waste provisions. In the 104th Congress, EPA took no official position on this issue, and was not a significant participant in the interstate waste/flow control negotiations. We expect to take a similar position in the current Congress.

Solid Waste Disposal Act (RCRA) -- Tire Recycling. Rep. Kennedy's (RI) legislation would amend RCRA (the law governing the management of solid and hazardous waste) to provide grants to states to stabilize and remove large tire piles that threaten water sources or sensitive populations. In contrast, Senator Chafee's (RI) bill would amend RCRA to encourage the recycling of waste tires and to abate tire dumps and tire stockpiles. EPA is currently reviewing these bills.

Congressional Responsibility Act. Senator Brownback's (KS) and Rep. Hayworth's (AZ) bills would require that all federal agency regulations be approved by Congress. We are currently analyzing these bills to determine their impact on the Agency.

#### Upcoming Hearings & Mark-ups

Date	Committee	Subject	Testifying
3/19	Senate EPW Subc. on Trans. & ISTEA Infrastructure (Warner R-VA)	David Gardiner, Asst. Administrator for	Policy Planning & Evaluation
3/20	House Commerce Subc. on Underground Finance & Hazardous Materials & Deputy Asst. (Oxley R-OH)	Leaking Storage Tank Fund Hazardous Administrator for	Superfund
4/8	Senate Appropriations Subc. on Request VA/HUD & Independent	FY '98 Budget Administrator, Deputy Administrator,	

Asst.  
Agencies

Administrators,  
Comptroller

## PRESS

**Air Pollution:** On Friday, 3/14, Administrator Browner met with the New York Times editorial board and Business Week editors in New York.

Next Tuesday, 3/25, Administrator Browner will travel to Cleveland, Ohio to speak to the Cleveland City Club and meet with the Cleveland Plain Dealer editorial board.

**Brownfields:** Administrator Browner and Reps. Gephardt, Dingell and other House Democratic leaders held a news conference today to introduce Brownfields legislation. Trade press covered the event.

**Texas:** Administrator Browner taped Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson's cable program on Tuesday, 3/18.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S SCHEDULE

3/21 Press event at Kramer Middle School, DC  
3/21 Reception for Secretary Albright  
3/24 Address to industry group re: Superfund  
3/24 Meeting with the Good Neighbor Project (community environmental groups)  
3/25 Address to Cleveland City Club, Cleveland, OH  
3/26 Interview w/Tim Wheeler, Baltimore Sun  
4/8 Senate Appropriation Hearings  
4/8 Meeting with Congressman Stokes  
4/8 Meeting with Jane Delgado, National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations  
4/9 Meeting with Rebecca Wodders and Tony Grossi, American Rivers  
4/9 Meeting with Governor Romer, Secretary Babbitt regarding Animas La Plata  
4/10 Attend Mexico Binational

## DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S SCHEDULE

3/19 Meeting w/Charleston business representatives, Charleston, SC  
3/19 Press event and meeting with local leaders from the Charleston, SC Enterprise Community (EC) to discuss EPA's community-based environmental protection (CBEP) efforts in EC.  
3/24 Press event with community leaders at Brownfields site, Oakland, CA  
3/25 Address & California and the World Ocean '97" Conference, San Diego, CA  
3/27 Address Los Angeles Bar Association

## REGULATORY ACTION

**FQPA Implementation Plan:** EPA has announced the availability of the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) Implementation Plan. This plan provides an overview of EPA's pesticide regulation responsibilities and summarizes the Agency's strategy for carrying out the new law. It also describes how EPA has and will continue to involve stakeholders in implementing the law.

**Proposed Air Standards for Pharmaceutical Production:** This week, EPA will propose new standards to reduce toxic air emissions from pharmaceutical production facilities. These proposed standards would reduce toxic air emissions including methylene chloride, toluene and hydrogen chloride, by 24,000 tons annually, representing 65 percent reduction from current levels. Approximately 100 pharmaceutical facilities would be affected. EPA has worked closely with industry and other stakeholders in developing this proposal to ensure that it contains common sense, cost-effective means of compliance. EPA plans to finalize the rule in early 1998.

## FOIA REQUESTS

For the week of 3/12 through 3/18, EPA received 608 requests for information. The Agency received a total of 4,940 requests for information to date. There were no requests of interest this week.

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Courtney Manning ( Courtney Manning [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:34:56.00

SUBJECT: EPA Weekly Report

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CAROL M. BROWNER

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for June 4, 1997

#### WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

Safe Drinking Water Announcement: On Friday (5/30), the Vice President highlighted the Administration's commitment to balancing the budget and protecting the environment by announcing grants to states that will be available to local communities for drinking water protection. He announced this funding for each state under the FY98 Safe Drinking Water Loan Fund. The Vice President was joined by Administrator Browner, Maryland Governor Glendening, the Mayor Rose Krasnow of Rockville, Maryland and other state and local officials.

This event not only highlighted the importance of ensuring adequate funding for the Safe Drinking Water Loan fund in the President's FY98 budget, but also celebrated the accomplishment of the Clinton/Gore Administration in protecting the health of American communities through the 1996 establishment of the Safe Drinking Water Loan Fund.

#### KEY AGENCY NEWS

Proposed Air Standards: EPA continues to meet with other agencies and White House offices in a process managed by the NEC to discuss the ozone and particulate matter standards proposed by the Agency. EPA expects to deliver the final standards to OMB in the near future for their final review.

Clean Water: On Sunday (6/8), EPA Administrator Browner will join Congressman Steny Hoyer and former Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler at the Chesapeake Bay Wade-In. Administrator Browner will give brief remarks about the Clinton Administration's continued action to provide clean, safe water for all Americans.

CONGRESS

## Legislative Action this Week

On 6/4, Conferees are expected to resume negotiations of the Supplemental Appropriations and Recessions Act. It is unclear whether Members will be able to reach agreement on a measure this week.

On 6/4, the Senate Small Business Committee (Bond MO) held a hearing on the small business perspective on federal regulations.

On 6/5, the House Small Business Committee held a hearing on the implementation of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA).

On 6/5 and 6, both the Senate and House are expected to consider and pass the Budget Resolution.

## Administrator's Meetings & Travel

On 6/6, Administrator Browner will meet with Sen. Feinstein (CA) for a general discussion.

On 6/6, Administrator Browner will meet with Sen. Levin (MI) for a general discussion.

On 6/8, Administrator Browner will join Rep. Hoyer (MD) at the Annual Bernie Fowler & Wade-In 8 in Calvert County, MD. This event is a demonstration of improving water quality on the Chesapeake Bay.

On 6/11, Administrator Browner will speak to the Congressional Black Caucus about EPA's proposed air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter.

On 6/11 through 13, Administrator Browner will be in Pittsburgh, PA to host the Council of Environmental Cooperation meeting.

## Current Legislative Issues

Superfund. Last week, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee staff and EPA completed two weeks of meetings with stakeholders on Superfund reauthorization issues. Senate Democrats have given an outline of proposed remedy language to Senate Republicans. EPA provided technical assistance to Senate Democrats in drafting the outline. The House Transportation and Infrastructure and Commerce Committees staff are continuing stakeholder meetings.

## Upcoming Hearings & Mark-ups

Date	Committee	Subject	Testifying
6/10	Senate Environment and Public Works	Wetlands to be determined	Subc.
		on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property and Nucl. Safety (Inhofe OK)	
6/12	Senate Environment and Public Works	Environmental Asst.	Enforcement
	Admin. for (Chafee RI)	Enforcement,	



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cc: Kitty Higgins

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan ( CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:23:49.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of March 24, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE      March 20, 1997

FROM:            Secretary Slater

SUBJECT:            DOT Weekly Report -- Week of March 24, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Secretary Travels to Chicago:** On March 14, Secretary Slater traveled to Chicago to hold a press conference at the Western Avenue Station of the Chicago Transit Authority's Ravenswood Line to highlight the successes of ISTEA and roll-out the National Economic Crossroads Transportation Efficiency Act (NEXTEA). Secretary Slater was joined at the press conference by Mayor Richard Daley, Senator Carol Mosely-Braun and Congressman Rod Blagojevich.

**ER Funds Announcement:** On March 21, the Department will award \$1 million to KY to repair highways damaged in March flooding, \$1.08 million to MN to repair roads damaged by storms, \$1.5 million to HI, and \$1.8 million to IL to repair flood damaged roads.

**Secretary Travels to LA:** On March 27, Secretary Slater will travel to Los Angeles, CA to address the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner. While in Los Angeles, Secretary Slater will also meet with the Editorial Board of the Los Angeles Times, attend a reception honoring Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, meet with Assemblyman Kevin Murphy, and meet with FAA regional management team.

**Secretary Slater DC Event:** On March 20, Secretary Slater participated in an event at the St. Joseph Day Care Center in Washington, DC. The Secretary gave brief remarks about child care safety seats and presented safety seats to some families. DC SAFEKIDS were on hand to help present and install the seats.

**Secretary to Join Secretary Babbitt in DC Event:** On March 21, Secretary Slater will join Secretary Babbitt in DC at the completion of the rehabilitation of 15th street and Raoul Wallenberg Place. The Secretaries will meet with a group of 40 elementary school children and make remarks.

This project is part of on-going efforts by the NPS and FHWA to improve park roads within the Nations Capital.

#### Mississippi River Flooding Incidents:

**Barge Accident in Lower Mississippi River:** On March 17, a tug and barge struck the Highway 190 bridge over the Mississippi River, near Baton Rouge, LA. The barges broke loose from the towboat and were carried down river. One tank barge carrying pyrolysis gas, ( a gasoline product), overturned and lodged against the bridge. The river was closed for 2 miles in this area, and Coast Guard, state, and contractor response forces are on scene. The river is now open to limited, controlled one way vessel traffic. The salvage crane is on scene. After the overturned barge is inspected for product, the salvage operation should commence on March 20. The bridge remains open to highway and rail traffic. Authorities initially evacuated 17 homes and 90 inmates in Port Allen, LA, due to the threat of hazardous vapors from the barge. The 17 house still are evacuated. Media interest is high. Due to the swift current on the river the Coast Guard has placed various restrictions on vessel traffic.

**Coal Carrier Aground:** On March 20, a 799 ft coal carrier, Ariel, ran aground in the Mississippi River Delta, southwest passage. The vessel was aground and the channel was closed; however, the coal freighter has been refloated. There was no report of damage to the vessel or pollution. This was significant because no ships could get in and out of New Orleans. The Coast Guard evaluated and oversaw salvage operations by the owners. There was high media interest.

**Runaway barges:** On March 20, 126 barges broke loose in the lower Mississippi River, south of New Orleans, which closed the river. All barges have been recovered and the river is reopened. None of the barges contained hazardous material or oil. One barge struck a pipeline at a nearby facility, releasing residual ammonia from the pipeline. No injuries were reported from this incident. There is high media coverage.

**Washington State Flooding:** On March 20, mudslides and localized flooding cause by recent heavy rains have affected surface traffic in several areas of the state. US 12 and US 101 along the Pacific coast have been closed intermittently at various locations due to high water or mudslides. Amtrak has halted passenger trains between Seattle and Everett due to a mudslide. Three trains are effected. The line should open to freight on March 21 and passengers on March 24.

**Flooding on Ohio River Subsiding:** The flooding on the Ohio River that resulted from a series of storms March 1-2 is subsiding, and the flood crest has moved into the Mississippi River where it is not expected to create any major flooding. All affected transportation systems have returned to normal except U.S. 51 where it crosses over the Ohio River at Cairo, IL; there, the bridge approaches are still flooded. As of March 19, the Coast Guard has assisted 800 people in the flood relief efforts. The Coast Guards primary area of emphasis has now shifted downriver to Cairo, IL, Memphis, TN, Vicksburg, TN, and New Orleans, LA. A Coast Guard rapid response force, (command center, cutter, helos), is also set in place in Vicksburg, where precautionary home evacuations have already been

directed. Two Coast Guard helicopters, numerous cutters and small boats, and approximately 100 Coast Guard active, reserve and auxiliary personnel are supporting the Midwest flood effort.

**American Airlines Strike:** On March 19, the Presidential Emergency Board established to achieve a settlement between American Airlines and its pilots issued its report and recommendations to the White House. However, the PEB continued conducting negotiations with the parties. News stories are reporting that a tentative agreement has been reached and substantive details are being worked out. The Unions Board is assembling in Washington, DC on March 21 to review the proposed settlement. If the Unions Board approves, the agreement will be put before the membership for a ratification vote.

**Japanese Port Practices:** Assistant Secretary Hunnicutt and Maritime Administrator Herberger met with senior officials from the Japanese Transport Ministry to convey the Department's support for the recently announced intent by the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) to levy fines on Japanese vessels calling at U.S. ports. This action is being taken in response to discriminatory Japanese port practices which disadvantage U.S. carriers. The FMC sanctions are scheduled to go into effect on April 14.

**St. Lawrence Seaway Opening:** On April 2, the St. Lawrence Seaway Administrator Gail McDonald will travel to Massena, NY, to open the Seaways 1997 shipping season. This will be the Seaways 38th year of operation.

**NHTSA/Ford Press Conference:** On March 27, NHTSA Administrator Dr. Ricardo Martinez will announce plans for distribution of the video Protecting Your New Born and an accompanying study guide. Both the video and study guide will be distributed to hospital and birth educators. Dr. Martinez will recognize the impact of Congressman Frank Wolf on this project and thank Ford Motor Company for their donation which enabled distribution of the video and study guide. Participating in the event will be Dr. Martinez, Congressman Wolf, Helen Petrauskas of Ford, and a representative of the Childrens Television Workshop.

**FAA Proposes Retrofit of 737 Rudder Components:** On March 18, as part of its continuing operational safety program, the FAA announced two Airworthiness Directives to require retrofit of newly developed rudder system components -- the power control unit, yaw damper system, and rudder hydraulic pressure reducer -- for existing Boeing 737 aircraft. The agreement to do this retrofit was announced by the Vice President earlier this year.

**France Aviation:** On March 10, the French presented a proposal for a new bilateral aviation agreement that would include a 9-year phased-in liberalization period, essentially to an open-transatlantic regime for services between the two countries. The Department is studying the proposal and have offered to meet with the French in Washington on April 21-24. On March 13, the French Government informed the U.S. Government that it would approve all U.S. carrier summer schedules for the summer season, provided that the U.S. approved all French carrier schedules for the summer. It is the U.S. intent to approve the French summer schedules.

**Loan Guarantee for Hopper Barges:** On March 7, the Maritime Administrator approved a Letter Commitment to guarantee obligations for CPD Barge Company (CPD), of Friars Point, MS. CPD's project involves the mortgage period financing of 18 jumbo hopper barges. The actual cost and the guarantee amount are \$5,787,090 and \$5,063,000, respectively. The barges will be constructed at Trinity Marine Group, Inc.'s, facilities in Gulfport, MS.

**NHTSA's Air Bag Depowering Regulation Published:** On March 19, the NHTSA published a final rule in the Federal Register that will permit vehicle manufacturers to depower air bags. This rule will become effective immediately. Manufacturers are expected to offer some vehicles with depowered air bags by this September, the beginning of the 1998 model year. These depowered air bags will reduce the risk of injury to children and small-stature adults. This rulemaking is part of NHTSA's ongoing program to improve the safety of air bags.

**NHTSA participates in 4-day NTSB Public Forum:** NHTSA participated in the 4-day public forum on air bags and child passenger safety, that was conducted by the NTSB during March 17-20. Four agency senior staff members gave presentations to the NTSB and the public on the status of the ongoing program to reduce the risk of injury to children and small-stature adults. NHTSA experts participated in all the NTSB panel discussions on a broad range of fact-finding issues, including air bag performance, state safety belt use laws, and child-restraint designs.

**Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA):** On March 14, the Coast Guard, USAF, and FRA completed a supplemental MOA for installation of a prototype DGPS at the Ground Wave Emergency Network (GWEN) site in Appleton, WA. This will be used for a prototype Positive Train Control system in this area. If feasible, additional sites may be sought to implement the nationwide DGPS network being coordinated by OST/P-7.

**Airport Revenue Diversion - Los Angeles:** On March 17, the FAA's Director of Airport Safety and Standards issued a Record of Determination, which finds that all but approximately \$780,000 of the \$31.1 million transferred from the airport fund to the City general fund was not justified, and ordered the City to return approximately \$30.3 million, plus interest, to the airport fund. The City has the right to request an administrative hearing on this Determination. On September 27, 1996, the City of Los Angeles, Airports Department, a federally subsidized airport sponsor, transferred \$31.1 million to the City of Los Angeles (City) general fund for claimed unreimbursed contributions and services for the period 1928-1971. It is a violation of federal grant assurances for an airport to use airport-generated revenue for other than lawful airport purposes. The City attempted to justify the transfer and refused FAA's request to return the \$31.1 million, plus interest, to the airport fund. On December 16, 1996, the FAA issued a Notice of Investigation under new, expedited procedures, to investigate whether the transfer constituted unlawful airport revenue diversion. The FAA invited good faith efforts by the City to resolve the matter informally, met with the City on numerous times to exchange various documents, and evaluated the legal and accounting justifications for the transfer. Until the funds are repaid, the four airports operated by the

City - LAX, Ontario, Palmdale and Van Nuys will not be eligible for FAA grants. (Palmdale is not currently receiving grants.)

**Miami International Airport Rate Proceeding:** Dade County, which operates the Miami International Airport (MIA), is expanding and rebuilding most of the airport. American Airlines, which operates a hub at MIA, will obtain new terminal facilities, as will other airlines using the airport. Under the rate methodology used by Dade County, all airlines essentially pay the same rate for airport facilities, so all airlines will share in paying the cost of the airport's expansion and reconstruction. Several airlines complained that the airport's rate methodology cannot reasonably be used to allocate the cost of the American facilities, since American will allegedly obtain better and newer facilities than other airlines. At Dade County's request, which American supported, the Department assigned the dispute to an administrative law judge (ALJ) for hearing. The ALJ's February 17 recommended decision found that American should pay a much larger share of the cost of its facilities. The Department's decision, issued March 19, reversed the ALJ on the grounds that the airport needed to modernize and expand its facilities, that the airport had adopted a plan to meet those needs which provided for the building of new facilities for many of the airlines serving the airport, that the American facilities would be comparable to the facilities being built for other airlines at the airport, and that the airport's methodology was reasonably applied in allocating the cost of the American facilities. Since the airport's fees are largely based on each airline's activity, American will pay almost half of the cost of all of the airport's reconstruction work.

**IG Review of LAX Revenue Use:** The Department's Fiscal Year 1997 Appropriations Act included language in the Conference Report which stated that the Department could not issue grants to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (LAMTA) unless the DOT Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued an audit finding no revenue diversion had occurred in Los Angeles in Fiscal Year 1997. On March 7, the OIG issued a memorandum to the FAA Finding about \$1 million in prohibited airport revenue diversion in FY 97. The FAA has 30 days to respond to the OIG's finding. Over \$35 million in transit grants to the City are at stake.

**Military Use of Alaskan Airspace:** This week, FAA will be issuing a determination concluding that a proposal by the Air Force to expand its use of airspace in Alaska for training purposes satisfies stringent environmental standards. The FAA will find that there are no prudent and feasible alternatives to the impacts on parklands and other potentially environmentally-sensitive areas that will occur as a result of the Air Force mission, and that all possible planning has been undertaken to minimize the harm that will result. These standards were applied under an agreement between the Air Force and DOT. Senator Murkowski has been especially concerned about the status of this matter.

**Interim Final Rule on Overflights User Fees:** On March 20, the FAA published an interim final rule requiring aircraft operators to pay fees for air traffic control services provided to aircraft that fly, but do not take off or land, in U.S. airspace. The rule is expected to recover about \$20 million in fiscal year 1997.

FAA Commuter Rule Deadline: March 20 is the compliance deadline for the Commuter Rule which set one level of safety for all scheduled airlines. Announced as a final rule in December 1995, the Commuter Rule requires commuter airlines to meet the same operational, equipment, and performance safety standards as major air carriers. It requires all commuters that operate aircraft with 10-30 seats to meet the same or equivalent safety standards as the major air carriers. Previously, there was one set of rules for aircraft with 31 or more seats and another for 10- to 30-seat commuters. The majority of commuter air carriers have transitioned to the same safety standards adhered to by major air carriers. The remaining air carriers include those that have claimed bankruptcy, removed seats, and are operating with nine or less seats, or are still working with the FAA to reach compliance. On March 21, FAA will hold an event or issue a press release on the 1 year anniversary of the one level of safety rule.

Operation GULF SHIELD Commences: Operation GULF SHIELD, a coordinated counter narcotics effort involving federal, state, and local agencies, commenced on March 16. The operation will project a significant Coast Guard presence in a remote area of the south Texas Gulf Coast in response to the threat posed by small outboard vessels, (known as launches), transiting from Mexico to the unpopulated area of South Padre Island. Current estimates indicate that 125 tons of marijuana and 12 tons of cocaine are transported into the United States annually along this route. The operation will also focus on fisheries violations and illegal immigration activities.

Womens History Month Program: On March 24, the Department along with the Federal Womens Program Manager is hosting a program to highlight the contributions of women in DOT, past, present, and future. It will also serve as a tie-in to the National Womens History month theme: A Long and Fine Tradition of Community Service.

The Departments program will recognize women from each of the operating administrations for the significant contributions to the community, their agency or the Department as a whole. In addition, the Department has invited young women from D.C. schools to attend the program and meet with the Secretary, other honorees, and senior women from the Department.

## WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

### Exports/Trade/Open Economy

Binational Commission Meeting Preparations: The Department is working closely with the Department of State to prepare for the annual meeting between U.S. and Mexican cabinet officials to discuss bilateral transport issues. This meeting is currently scheduled for April 10 and 11. This annual meeting provides the two countries with an opportunity to build strong bilateral ties, recognize accomplishments over the last year and plan for new joint initiatives for the coming year.

Chile: Consultations with Chile are scheduled to be held April 9-10, in Santiago. The objective of these talks is to reach agreement on an open-skies civil aviation agreement.

Italy: Aviation negotiations are scheduled for April 7-8, in Rome. The

United States intends to discuss liberalization of the bilateral agreement based on its proposal for open skies. The Italians wish to discuss the Department's decision to take no action on the wet-lease application by Alitalia and the Department's refusal to expand the Continental-Alitalia code-share arrangements.

## Environment

**Brownfields:** Assistant Secretary Kruesi attended a DPC meeting to discuss the Administration's Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda. DOT has completed the plan to develop a strategy for incorporating brownfields redevelopment into transportation planning and programs were acknowledged at the meeting. The NEXTEA proposal includes a \$25 million pilot research program on transportation and land use issues, including brownfields redevelopment.

## Bridge to Asia-Pacific

**Cutter Trains Asian Navies:** The Cutter CHASE will deploy from April to July in support of CARAT 97 (Cooperation, Afloat, Readiness, Training), a major military operation in support of the United States cooperative engagement strategy in Southeast Asia. This large cutter will add significant value to mutual operations and goodwill efforts with key nations in Asia. The cutter will visit Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

## Undivided, Peaceful, Democratic Europe

**Coast Guard Deploys for Baltic Operations (BALTOPS 97):** The Cutter LEGARE will deploy to the Baltic Sea from May to August in support of United States peacetime engagement initiatives in Europe. As developing navies emphasize traditional Coast Guard missions, the Commanders in Chiefs (CINCs) strongly desire large cutters to train them in search and rescue, maritime law enforcement and environmental response missions. The LEGARE will train and make port calls in Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia (Kaliningrad), United Kingdom (and Northern Ireland), and Belgium.

## NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

**ISTEA Reauthorization Field Hearings:** The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a series of ISTEA field hearings that include Coueur d'Alene, Idaho on March 22; Kansas City, Missouri on March 26; Las Vegas Nevada on March 28; New York City on April 7; and Rhode Island on April 14. Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey will testify at the March 22 hearing and Deputy Secretary Downey will testify on April 7.

**FY98 Senate Transportation Appropriations:** The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation will hold the following transportation appropriations hearings: ISTEA Reauthorization on April 10, Aviation Safety and Security on April 16, and User Fees and Innovative Financing proposals on April 23. Department witnesses will be Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey, FTA Administrator Linton and NHTSA Administrator Martinez on April 10, a FAA witness on April 16 and Deputy Secretary

Downey on April 23.

**Ocean Shipping Deregulation:** On March 20, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing on the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1997. Surface Transportation Board Commissioner Linda Morgan is scheduled to testify.

**FAA Independent Financial Assessment:** On March 20, the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on Coopers and Lybrands Independent Financial Assessment of the Federal Aviation Administration. Acting Deputy Administrator Monte Belger will testify.

**Drug Interdiction Hearings:** On April 3, U.S. Coast Guard Commandant, ADM Kramek, will testify before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime on the Coast Guards drug interdiction efforts.

**Airbags and Child Restraints:** On April 9, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance has tentatively scheduled a hearing on airbags and child restraints. NHTSA Administrator Martinez will testify.

**TWA Accident Hearing:** On April 9, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation has tentatively scheduled a hearing on the TWA accident. Witnesses will include the FAA, NTSB, FBI and U.S. Navy.

**Aviation Insurance Program:** On May 1, the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is expected to hold a hearing on reauthorization of the aviation war risk insurance program. A witness from the FAA is expected to testify.

**Conrail Merger Hearing:** The Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on the Conrail merger on March 20. The Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) will testify. The other witnesses will be the 3 railroad CEO's involved, governors of MD and PA, mayor of Philadelphia, Port of NY/NJ, AFL/CIO, Amtrak, and a few large shippers.

**Deputy Secretary**

April 16-17

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Warrenton, VA.

April 20-23

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Conference.

April 29 (Tentative)

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the International Intermodal Exposition.

May 5

The Deputy Secretary will deliver opening remarks at the High Speed Rail Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

May 8

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the WTS 20th Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

May 29-30

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

March 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will host the third meeting of the Maglev Study Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C.

March 26

Admiral Kramek will give the State of the Coast Guard address in Washington, DC.

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Frank Kruesi, will be a panelist on International Issues in Global Positioning Systems in Washington, DC

March 27

Admiral Kramek and Governor Bush of Texas will inspect Coast Guard and interagency units supporting Operation GULF SHIELD.

The SLSDC Administrator, Gail McDonald, will host a management workshop for Seaway operations employees in Massena, NY.

March 28

The SLSDC Administrator, Gail McDonald, will visit the Volpe Center in Cambridge, MA.

April 2

The SLSDC Administrator, Gail McDonald, will open the Seaways 1997 shipping season in Massena, NY.

April 3

Admiral Kramek will testify at a U.S. Congressional hearing in Puerto Rico on drug trafficking.

April 4

Admiral Kramek will attend the Presidents announcement on chemical weapons at the White House.

April 6-9

Admiral Kramek will attend the CSC Index in Arizona.

April 8

RSPA Deputy Administrator will deliver opening remarks at the FAAs Coordinators Conference in Washington, DC

April 9-11

SLSDC Administrator McDonald will be the luncheon speaker at the Canada

Grains Councils 28th Annual Conference in Ottawa, Canada.

April 10

MARAD Administrator Herberger will attend the National Defense Transportation Association/CEO Meeting at Scott AFB, IL.

Assistant Secretary Kruesi will be the dinner speaker at the National Industrial Transportation League Railroad Transportation Committee Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

April 11

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will participate in a Crash Injury Research Engineering Network (CIREN) Conference in Ann Arbor, MI.

April 12

Admiral and Mrs. Kramek will attend the dual-commissioning of the Cutters IDA LEWIS and WILLOW in Newport, RI.

April 13

FRA Administrator Molitoris will be the keynote speaker at the American Public Transit Associations 1997 Commuter Rail Conference in Dallas, TX.

April 14

FRA Administrator Molitoris will address the first of three Federal Railroad Administration multi-regional conferences.

Admiral Kramek will speak at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association, Port of NY Luncheon in NYC.

April 14-15

Admiral Kramek will attend functions in New York with the American Bureau of Shipping.

April 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Arlie, VA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

April 17

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Coalition of Consumer Health and Safety in Washington, DC

April 25

RSPA Administrator Sharma will deliver remarks at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, DC

April 28-29

FRA Administrator Molitoris will visit FRA employees in Region 8 in Vancouver, WA.

April 29

Admiral Kramek will meet with Commissioner David Watters, head of the Canadian Coast Guard.

April 30

Admiral Kramek will attend the National Propeller Club salute to Congress dinner in Washington.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage and Seward, AK, to participate in a special train trip hosted by the Railroad Operating Rules Association of North America.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will be a guest speaker at the Primary Seatbelt Enforcement Law for the District of Columbia Press Conference in Washington, DC.

May 1-2

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage, AK, to be the keynote speaker at the biannual meeting of the Railroad Operating Rules Association of North America, and will visit several of the Alaska Railroad Corporations facilities.

May 5

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Las Vegas, NV, to be the keynote speaker at the High-Speed Ground Transportation Associations 1997 International Convention and Exposition.

May 6

Admiral Kramek will address the Baltimore Coast Guard Officers Association Luncheon.

May 8

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Baltimore, MD, to be the keynote speaker at the 1997 Womens Transportation Seminar National Conference.

May 12

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will address the American Ambulance Association Stars of Life Awards Dinner in Washington, DC

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Atlanta, GA, to address the second of three FRA multi-regional conferences.

May 28

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference in San Diego, CA.

May 30

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference, San Diego, CA.

June 9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Sacramento, CA, to address the third and final FRA multi-regional conference.

June 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Minneapolis, MN, to participate

in the Small Railroads in the Non Urban Economy -- A Partnership conference.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

#### PRESS/MEDIA INQUIRIES

(New Listings above asterisk)

60 Minutes Interview Mary Schiavo: On March 23, 60 Minutes is scheduled to air an interview of Mary Schiavo, the previous Department's Inspector General. Her book, Flying Blind, Flying Safe, is scheduled to be released next week and is very critical of Airline safety and security. Time Magazine will publish excerpts.

Received several requests for information about the Title XI approval in January for China Ocean Shipping Co. (America), Inc. On request, provided copies of Jan. 30 news release and list of approved applications, with export projects indicated. Interested media included Transport Finance, Los Angeles Times, Dallas Daily News, and Fox News Channel (Fox also asked to join in a previously filed Freedom of Information Act request from the Associated Press).

Augusta Chronicle requested a copy of the Audit of Bush Fields Report.

#### Media Inquiries

(New listings above asterisk)

Good Morning America begins a four-part series on aviation beginning March 25. Former Inspector General Mary Schiavo will be interviewed.

CNN, March 18 or 19, will air a segment on converting military aircraft for civilian use. Acting FAA Administrator Valentine was interviewed.

Dateline NBC is scheduled to air a piece on turbulence during March. The Wall Street Journal is also preparing an article on the FAA's research efforts to predict turbulence. Publication date not known.

The Wall Street Journal is preparing an article on the commuter rule and voluntary compliance programs. Publication date not known.

The Today Show is preparing a 5-7 minute segment on the new aviation safety website, tentatively scheduled to air March 21.

The Fort Worth Star Telegram, March 14, called about the Highway Beautification Act. FHWA provided some background and referred the reporter to Texas DOT.

Following Secretary Slaters news briefing on the NEXTEA proposal, FHWA Acting Administrator Garvey was briefly interviewed by States News Service, Inside DOT and Engineering News Record.

Newsweek magazine, March 12, called about funding for the Smart Traffic

program.

Inside Edition is developing a story about personal watercraft safety. A reporter spoke with a representative from Coast Guard Boating Safety. No final story has yet been developed.

Fox News, AP, Los Angeles Times and National Public Radio requested additional information on the March 10 AP article on the Long Beach Navy base being leased to COSCO Shipping.

Associated Press called for a reaction to the NTSB meeting in Nantucket about the cruise ship Royal Majesty and the findings of their investigation which had suggested certain actions by the Coast Guard.

C-Spans Washington Journal has requested that Deputy Secretary Mort Downey appear March 20 to discuss NASTY. The request is under consideration.

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The Los Angeles Times is preparing an article on ATC modernization. Publication date not known.

Jim Lehrer Newshour may do a story on the upgrading of air traffic control equipment, with a focus on Chicago. Date of broadcast is not known.

The Washington Post is pursuing an article about the use of older ATC equipment at National Airport. Inquiries are being researched at FAA.

#### FOIA REQUESTS

Violation history of American International Airways from January 1, 1990 to the present -- The Plain Dealer

Findings of FAA/FBI Red Team undercover units regarding security at the Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach International Airports -- NBC, WTVJ-6

Radar tapes of TWA Flight 800 -- CNN

Documents titled, Daily Record of Facility Operation, FAA Form 7230-4 (4-82) from Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport -- KTVT-11 News, Dallas, Texas

Data on in-flight medical emergencies provided to the Office of the Federal Air Surgeon by MedAire, Inc. -- Chicago Tribune

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of March 22-23, Jackie Lowey will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan ( CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:27:53.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of May 19, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE      May 14, 1997

FROM:            Secretary Slater

SUBJECT:            DOT Weekly Report -- Week of May 19, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

**ValuJet Hearing:** On May 15, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on the FAA's response to hazardous materials and cargo fire protection issues one year after the ValuJet crash. Acting FAA Administrator Barry Valentine and RSPA Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety Alan Roberts will testify. Jim Hall, chairman of NTSB, ALPA, ATA, and industry representatives may also testify.

**Fire Suppression and Detection:** FAA is presently working on an NPRM which would require smoke detection and fire suppression systems in Class D cargo holds of passenger airlines. A fire in a Class D cargo hold led to the crash of ValuJet 592 in May 1996. In November 1996, FAA announced it was going forward with a rulemaking to require both detection and suppression. In December 1996, the Vice President announced a voluntary commitment by the ATA to install detection systems in their aircraft beginning in October 1997, and that the ATA and the government would continue to explore ways to install suppression systems. The issue concerning suppression systems at the time was the use of halon as the suppressant -- an inert gas which causes ozone depletion. Presently, the production of halon is prohibited, although its use is not. ATA was concerned at that time that it would be possible for them to retrofit their airlines for halon, then have the substance banned, which would require a second retrofit.

On May 9, 1997, FAA and EPA, with the consultation of CEQ and the Office of            Vice President, announced in a letter to FAA from EPA that the government            would permit the use of halon in any retrofitted aircraft for the life of the aircraft.

On May 13, In a letter to the Vice President, the ATA stated that they would            oppose any rulemaking that would

require both detection and suppression; rather, they favored two separate rulemakings. Also on May 13, NTSB Chairman Hall sent a letter to Secretary Slater asking him to use his leadership to have FAA move forward more quickly on the rulemaking.

Chairman Hall sent a tough letter on same topic to ATA reminding them of their voluntary agreement announced last December by President and Vice President to install smoke detectors.

Following a meeting on May 14 with the FAA, the ATA held a press conference announcing their intention to voluntarily install both suppression and detection. FAA will proceed with the rulemaking.

**Continental Investigated:** On April 15, oxygen generators were shipped illegally on a Continental passenger flight from LA to Houston. This incident involved 7 oxygen generators, which were shipped with safety caps on making a ValuJet repeat impossible. But caps on or off, it's been illegal to do so since May 26, 1996. The FAA is investigating and penalties will be severe. Since the ValuJet accident, RSPA has hired more hazardous materials inspectors, increased administrative support for these inspectors, and developed legislation to go after the dangerous practice of hiding or not declaring hazardous materials shipments. The FAA has launched an entirely new Dangerous Goods and Cargo Security program which includes hiring 118 new inspectors.

**Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean Presidential Summits:** Secretary Slater accompanied President Clinton to Mexico for the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission meeting May 6-7, where he and Mexican Secretary Ruiz held discussions on a variety of issues including NAFTA implementation, pollution response plan, civil aviation technical assistance, maritime safety of human life at sea, and a trade mission to Mexico. On May 8, the Secretary traveled to Costa Rica for the U.S.-Central America Summit, where bilateral "Open-Skies" aviation agreements were the centerpiece of the Summit. Agreements were signed with five Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The Secretary also accompanied the President to Barbados May 9-11 for the U.S.-Caribbean Summit, where he met with his counterparts on a number of U.S. Coast Guard, maritime, and FAA aviation technical assistance issues.

**EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):** In a letter addressed to Secretary Slater and dated May 9, House Commerce Committee Chairman Bliley requested that the Department submit internal materials related to the development of the NAAQS from December 1996 to the present. In early April, the Department provided materials from the period before December 13, 1996, the date that the proposed rules were issued. Chairman Bliley alluded to the possibility of taking legal action against the Department if his request was not met. The Department is continuing to prepare a written response to the Committee and has spoken to Committee staff. This issue is expected to be resolved by the end of the week.

**Barriers to Entry in the Aviation Industry:** On May 13, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a hearing on barriers

to entry in the aviation industry. Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt testified. The main issues addressed were: 1) loss of service by the major carriers to rural areas since deregulation of the industry in 1978, 2) resulting rise in ticket prices for flights to rural areas, 3) barriers to entry - slots, perimeter rule, long-term exclusive-use gates, marketing strategies of dominant airlines. Sen. Wyden was especially critical of the Administration's AIP funding proposal for FY 1998. No member was particularly critical of the Department, although Chairman McCain regreted that Mr. Hunnicutt failed to express DOT's view regarding the perimeter rule.

**Slot Rule at National Airport:** The Associated Press (AP) is working on a story for this week or next on the relationship between members of Congress and corporations, an element of which is access to National Airport where landing is controlled by a "slot" system for commercial traffic and a first-come, first-served reservation system for private/corporate traffic. The AP was told that the FAA Administrator's office relays requests by members for access to National by corporate aircraft which were unable to get a regular reservation. That request is relayed to air traffic control officials and, in clear weather, the National tower controllers can accept extra planes on a workload-permitting basis. No preferential treatment is involved because any pilot can reach controllers by radio and ask to land at National under the workload-permitting system. Congressional callers making requests of the FAA headquarters when the weather is poor (instrument flying conditions--IFR) are told aircraft should go to Dulles, but are occasionally allowed to land or depart from National under IFR conditions.

**\$10 Million to Repair Flood-Damaged Roads in North Dakota:** On May 14, to help North Dakota in its flood recovery efforts, President Clinton announced that the state would receive \$10 million in Federal Highway Emergency Relief funds to continue repairs on federal-aid roads and bridges damaged during recent flooding in the Grand Forks area and elsewhere in the state.

**Strike by UPS Pilots:** Some 2,000 UPS pilots, represented by the Independent Pilots Association, voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike if wage negotiations with UPS are not settled soon. The Teamsters Union has promised to honor the picket lines if a strike occurs; thus the strike by pilots could shut down the entire \$25B company. UPS asked the National Mediation Board (NMB) to release it from negotiations; if NMB does that, a 30-day cooling off period ensues, after which the pilots are free to strike unless the President appoints a Presidential Emergency Board.

**Secretary Slater Addresses ALPA:** On May 14, Secretary Slater addressed the Executive Board of the Air Line Pilots Association in VA. ALPA is a union which represents 46,000 airline pilots at 45 U.S. and Canadian airlines.

**Secretary Slater Announces Grade Crossing Safety Campaign:** On May 14, Secretary Slater unveiled Operation Lifesavers Highways or Dieways public awareness campaign at Union Station in Washington, DC. The purpose of the nationwide campaign is to educate the public as to the dangers at highway-railroad grade crossings. The Department provided funds for the

campaign.

**National Youth Summit: Mothers Against Drunk Driving National Youth Summit:** On May 10 -13, MADD sponsored a National Youth Summit at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD. On May 12, Secretary Slater spoke to the National Youth Summit on the importance of youth to America and the dangers of drunk and drugged driving.

**DOT Anniversary Celebration:** On May 19 the Department will continue its 30 year celebration by holding Open Houses across the country. In Washington, DC, there will be Modal and Technical exhibits in the Plaza, as well as an open house in the Nassif Building. The Department has extended invitations to the President and Vice President. In addition, the Department will unveil its new homepage that includes a video message from Secretary Slater. This will be the first video message from a cabinet member.

**National Airport Tower Dedication:** On May 12, Secretary Slater dedicated Washington National Airports new Airport Traffic Control Tower and Terminal Approach Control (TRACON) facility, and announced a \$10 million grant to improve the safety of pedestrians using the main terminal there. Prior to that announcement, a USAir flight, an MD-80, experienced an engine failure on departure. The flight diverted and landed at Dulles without incident. The runway at National was closed for 13 minutes and seven aircraft were delayed an average of 19 minutes. FAA is investigating the incident.

**Urban Transport:** On May 14, Secretary Slater spoke to a workshop on Urban Passenger Transportation and Environmental Statistics in Washington, DC.

**Secretary Travels to Arkansas:** On May 15, Secretary Slater accompanied by HUD Secretary Cuomo will travel to Little Rock, AR to view the reconstruction efforts in the College Station community which was damaged by tornadoes in March. The Secretaries will be joined by local community leaders.

**Scholarship Luncheon:** On May 15, Secretary Slater speaks at the Daisy Bates Scholarship Luncheon in Little Rock, Ark., where seven minority high school seniors in the state will receive college scholarships.

**Commencement Address:** On May 17, Secretary Slater will deliver the commencement address at the University of Arkansas Law School in Little Rock.

**Hall High School Baccalaureate:** On May 18, Secretary Slater speaks at the baccalaureate ceremony of Hall High School in Little Rock, AR where he will discuss the 40th anniversary of the integration of local high schools.

**Secretary Travels to Connecticut:** On May 21, Secretary Slater will travel to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT to give the commencement address.

**Operation ABC - Mobilizing America to Buckle Up Children:** On May 19,

Secretary Slater, Attorney General Reno, and Administrator Martinez will kick off the nationwide mobilization of law enforcement to heighten public awareness that transporting unbuckled children is not only unlawful, it is also unacceptable. The Washington, DC event is hosted by the Air Bag Safety Campaign in cooperation with NHTSA. Timed with the May 19-26 Buckle Up America! Week, the mobilization involves law enforcement agencies in all 50 states, as well as elected officials, highway safety offices and health organizations who will conduct localized press events to kick off city and state events across the Nation.

**NHTSA To Publish Interim Final Rule, Extending Standards Exemptions to Depowered Vehicles:** On May 9, NHTSA issued an interim final rule amending the air bag safety standard, so that certain exclusions to two other safety standards that are available to the older, unbelted barrier tests will also be available for vehicles certified to the new, alternative sled test. This action was in response to a request from the American Automobile Manufacturers Association, and is needed to prevent a delay in depowering. This exclusion involves the steering column impact protection standard, and the safety belt webbing elongation limitations. Both of these requirements are well represented in the performance measured during the air bag sled test.

**Innovative Finance Program Recognized:** FHWA's innovative finance program, *Rebuilding America: Partnership for Investment*, has been named a semifinalist in the 1997 Innovations in American Government Awards. The awards are sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. FHWA has approved more than 70 innovative finance projects worth \$4.5 billion.

**B-747 Blast Test:** On May 17, the FAA and the United Kingdom's Civil Aviation Authority are combining their assets to study the blast effects and potential mitigation methods on commercial wide-body aircraft. A jointly acquired pressurized 747-100 will be used in the tests, which will take place about 70 miles outside of London. The goal is to study measures that could protect civil aircraft from explosions in luggage. There will be four simultaneous explosions in the aircraft.

**Engineering and Support Contract:** On May 9, FAA awarded a contract to provide engineering and support services for navigational equipment used in the National Airspace System. The contract consolidates three other contracts and will provide electronic and software engineering services in the maintenance and modification of ground-based radar. Initially, the contract is for \$16.6 million; if all options are exercised it could go up to \$106.7 million.

**Civil Liberties Implications of Automated Passenger Profiling:** On May 8, FAA Security staff briefed DOJ on a computer assisted automated passenger screening system (CAPS). The briefing was the third in a series with DOJ officials for the purpose of ensuring that the screening does not infringe civil liberties. The DOJ representatives will attend a demonstration of CAPS by Northwest Airlines and review of statistical data from ongoing field tests.

**Aviation Security Tabletop Exercise:** On May 28, an aviation security

tabletop exercise will be held at Denver International Airport to assist in security preparations for the Summit of the Eight." Participants include airport operations managers at the airport, FAA Security officials, Denver Police, Federal law enforcement officials, and staff of U.S. airlines.

**Bag Match Passenger Testing:** The passenger bag match test recommended by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security is being conducted May 6-19 by 12 airlines at 11 locations. Approximately 200,000 passengers will be transported on the aircraft in the test. No major flight delays have been reported as a result of the passenger-bag match in the tests first two days.

**FedEx to fly to Vietnam:** FedEx has received permission from the U.S. Government to fly into Vietnam. FedEx is the only U.S. airline with permission to fly into Vietnam since the war ended in 1975. Air Service will be handled on an ad hoc charter basis. Though FedEx has permission to begin flying into Vietnam, no date has been set to begin service. FedEx has served Vietnam via local carriers since 1994, and has offices in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

**Brothers to the Rescue:** Department representatives attended a security meeting with DOS, NSC and JCS to discuss the plans for a flotilla scheduled for May 17 by the Democracia Movement. The Democracia Air Group is planning to participate with approximately 12 aircraft in support of a flotilla with approximately 23 boats. Subsequent interagency working group meetings have been scheduled by DOS to finalize the contingency plans in preparation for the flotilla.

**Cummock v. Gore (D.D.C.):** Commissioner M. Victoria Cummock, a member of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, has sued the Vice President, the Chairman of the Commission, and Secretary Slater alleging that the Commission acted in violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), and that the Commission's Final Report failed to properly reflect her dissent from the Report. She seeks a permanent injunction prohibiting the filing of the Final Report with the Library of Congress unless it contains her complete dissent and an injunction barring the distribution, publication, or use of the Final Report without her complete dissent. In addition, she seeks an injunction requiring that all documents made available to, or prepared by or for the Commission, be made available to her. No request for temporary or preliminary injunctive relief was filed with the complaint.

**Air Transport Ass'n v. DOT:** The Air Transport Association, the U. S. airlines' trade association, and the City of Los Angeles, which operates Los Angeles International Airport, are seeking judicial review of the Department's revised policy statement on airport rates and charges, which was published in the Federal Register on June 21, 1996. The airlines are challenging the policy statement provision that allows airports to use any reasonable method for setting fees for non-airfield facilities and does not require such fees to be based on historic cost. The City of Los Angeles is challenging the provision that requires landing fees to be based on the historic cost of airfield assets and bars the use of fair market value. The case will be argued on May 15.

Sailing Vessel Sinks off VA-2 Rescued; 1 Dead: On May 10, the sailing vessel ANKH reported it was in danger 450 miles off Virginia. Coast Guard aircraft arrived on scene and diverted a merchant ship to assist. During a recovery operation, the vessels collided and sailboat crewmembers were thrown in the water. Two were recovered but 1 was later found deceased by a Navy helicopter.

Saudi Arabia: Talks are scheduled in Washington on May 19 to discuss extension of the annexes to the air transport agreement and to explore the possibilities for obtaining Saudi approval of third-country codesharing.

Korea: "Open-Skies" negotiations with Korea are scheduled to take place in Seoul May 20-21.

Brazil: Negotiations with Brazil are scheduled for June 24-26, in Washington. During the talks we will attempt to further expand civil aviation services between the United States and Brazil.

#### Emergency Relief (ER) Funds Requests Update

North Dakota: Total estimates of costs of the damage are still being developed. The predicted level at Devil's Lake-1444 feet above sea level-will essentially close all routes in the immediate vicinity of the lake despite previous projects to raise grades. ND 57, the important NHS route connecting the Devil's Lake Sioux Indian Reservation with the city of Devil's Lake, is now closed indefinitely, requiring about a hour-long detour. The NDDOT has estimated future grade raises and other repair work in the Devil's Lake basin to total approximately \$35 million. They have requested a quick release of \$30 million in ER funds based on those estimates.

South Dakota: South Dakota has requested \$14.8 million in ER funds for repairing damage to Federal-aid highways caused by flooding during April 1997.

Idaho: The State continues to tally the landslide damage in the northern panhandle region triggered by the exceedingly high precipitation from the winter. The Idaho Division Office has two teams in northern Idaho working with State and local engineers to assess the transportation system damage for Emergency Relief funding purposes.

Minnesota: Although Minnesota is still developing its request for ER funding associated with the April flooding, FHWA Headquarters has received the State's request for ER funds for repairing three Interstate safety rest area buildings damaged by fire in January, 1997. Total estimated cost of the damage is \$1.3 million.

Ohio: FHWA Headquarters has received Ohio's request for ER funds for repairing damage to Federal-aid highways caused by flooding during March 1997. Total estimated damage is \$20 million.

#### WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

## NEXTEA Amplification

**NEXTEA:** A successful White House briefing on the environmental aspects of the Administrations NEXTEA proposal was held May 7. The Department worked with CEQ, OMB, NEC and EPA to plan the briefing for environmental and public interest organizations. Vice President Gore, CEQ Chair Katie McGinty, FHWA Acting Administrator Garvey and EPA Assistant Administrator David Gardiner spoke, as did Baltimore Mayor Schmoke and Surface Transportation Policy Project Director Hank Dittmar. The Department prepared a letter sent to the leadership of House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over NEXTEA-related issues to emphasize the Administrations priorities in reauthorization. Protecting the environment, safety, welfare to work, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, innovative finance, and technology, as well as strengthening core infrastructure investment programs and preserving ISTEAs flexibility were the key messages of the letter. The letter was distributed May 12.

## NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

**Commercial Vessel Safety:** On May 14, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing on commercial vessel safety. U.S. Coast Guard Assistant Admiral for Marine Safety, Rear Admiral North, will testify.

**Medical Kits on Commercial Airlines:** On May 21, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on medical kits on commercial airlines, focusing on what types of equipment aircraft should be required to carry during flights. FAA Federal Air Surgeon Jon Jordan will testify.

**Major Management and Program Weaknesses:** On May 21, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on major management and program weaknesses. The Department is expected to testify.

**U.S./Japan Bilateral Negotiations:** On June 4, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation has tentatively scheduled a hearing on U.S./Japan bilateral negotiations. Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify.

**U.S./U.K./Japan/France Aviation Negotiations:** On June 12, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing on U.S. aviation relations with the U.K., Japan and France. Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify.

**National Airway System Modernization:** The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation has tentatively scheduled a hearing for June 26 on national airway system modernization.

## Secretarys Schedule

May 15

Secretary Slater will travel to Little Rock, AR to address the annual Daisy Bates Scholarship luncheon.

May 17

Secretary Slater will give the commencement address at the University of Arkansas Law School in Fayetteville, AR.

May 18

Secretary Slater will attend the Hall High School Baccalaureate in Little Rock, AR.

May 21

Secretary Slater will give the commencement address at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

The Deputy Secretary

May 13

The Deputy Secretary will deliver the keynote speech at the Railway Age International Conference on Communications-Based Train Control in Washington, D.C..

May 14

The Deputy Secretary will deliver remarks at the first meeting of the TRB Committee on Federal Transportation R&D Strategic Planning in Washington, D.C.

May 15

The Deputy Secretary will speak at the ITS Policy Council of Associations Executive Board Meeting in Washington, D.C.

May 16

The Deputy Secretary will speak at the National Academy of Public Administrations Standing Panel Executive Committee Meeting in Washington, D.C.

May 21

The Deputy Secretary will make remarks at the Dallas/Fort Worth Federal Executive Board Annual Awards Luncheon, Arlington, TX.

May 22

The Deputy Secretary will make remarks at MARAD's Merchant Marine Memorial Service Washington, DC.

May 29-30

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

May 16

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit the Gulfstream in Savannah, GA.

May 18-20

USCG VADM Herr will visit with the Chiefs Academy and attend a retirement ceremony in Alameda, CA.

May 19

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the American Ambulance Association Stars of Life Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.

FRA Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will attend the 1997 E.H. Harriman Memorial Award Institute luncheon in Washington, D.C. honoring the railroads have the best employee safety records.

May 20

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Japan Transportation Research Centers Conference on Advanced Vehicle Technology in Washington, D.C., and at the EMS Week Congressional Lunch, also in Washington.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will visit the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA.

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit the FAA Technical Center in Atlantic City, NJ.

May 20-24

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Canny will attend the Steering Committee of the Road Transport Research Program for the OECD in Paris, France.

May 21

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy graduation in New London, CT.

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Federal Bar Association Meeting in Washington, D.C.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will participate in a joint NHTSA/FCC Wireless Summit Kick-off Event in Washington, D.C.

FRA Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will delivery the keynote luncheon address to the American Railway Development Associations 88th annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

May 22

USCG Admiral Kramek will host newly-selected flag and general officers participating in the CAPSTONE orientation program.

MARAD Deputy Administrator for Inland Waterways and Great Lakes Greykowski will speak at the Propeller Club Maritime Day Luncheon in St. Petersburg, FL.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will address the National Day Ceremony in Washington, DC.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will participate in an EMS Agenda for the

Future Implementation Team Recommendation Press Event in Washington, D.C.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will attend an SLSDC Advisory Board meeting in Chicago, IL.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will visit the Southwest Regional Offices of the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety and the Office of Pipeline Safety in Houston, TX.

May 23

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the CG Pacific Area change of command in Alameda, CA.

USCG VADM Herr will attend the ceremony for the Ancient Albatross in Mobile, AL.

May 26-31

FAA Acting Deputy Administrator Belger will speak at the Air Traffic Control Association Symposium and meet with Government officials in Vienna, Austria.

May 28

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Marine Transportation Systems Vulnerability Conference in Leesburg, VA.

VADM Herr will cochair the semi-annual Navy-Coast Guard Board with the Vice Chief of Operations, Admiral Gehman.

May 29

OSDBU Director Hopewell will be a speaker at the Florida DBE Consultant Seminar in Tampa, FL.

May 30

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference, San Diego, CA.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Leiber will participate as a panelist for the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California at Davis NEXTEA Workshop.

RSPA Administrator Sharma will visit the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA.

May 31

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Marine Day Ceremonies at the Maritime Exchange in Philadelphia, PA.

June 2

NHTSA Martinez will participate in a meeting with the Crash Injury Research Engineering Network in Ann Arbor, MI.

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will be speak on a panel at ITS America Seventh Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will participate as a panelist at the

Bulk Transpo 97 in Portland, OR.

June 4

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee (TIC) meeting in Washington.

FTA Administrator Linton will participate in an American Growing Smarter: A Summit, In Baltimore, MD.

June 5

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Change of Command for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL.

June 7

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Safe Communities Best Practices in Orlando, FL.

June 8

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the the Safe Communities Best Practices Conference in Orlando, FL.

June 9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Sacramento, CA, to address the third and final FRA multi-regional conference.

June 9-13

Maritime Administrator Herberger will attend and speak at the NOR-Shipping 97 Maritime Exposition in Oslo, Norway.

June 10

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at Lifesavers 15: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices, in Orlando, FL.

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the opening ceremony for the Center for Marine Education in Paducah, KY.

June 11

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at Lifesavers 15: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices in Orlando, FL.

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the opening of the Fourteenth Annual Engineers Meeting in Washington, D.C.

June 12

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the annual meeting of Trial Attorneys of America in Chicago, IL.

June 12-13

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will participate in Strategic Planning Retreat in Williamsburg, VA.

June 15-18

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will speak at the Paris Air Show in Paris, France.

June 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Minneapolis, MN, to participate in the Small Railroads in the Non Urban Economy -- A Partnership conference.

June 17

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the DOT-sponsored program honoring Alex Haley and the 20th anniversary of Roots.

June 18

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the National Emergency Number Association Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

June 19

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the Annual Automotive Litigation Conference in Arlington, VA.

June 20

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy change of command.

June 21

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will represent the Department at a pre-ministerial APEC Senior Officials meeting in Victoria, Canada.

June 23

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Kruesi will be the keynote speaker at the 68th annual meeting of the Association for Transportation Law, Logistics and Policy in Santa Fe.

June 24-25

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the CINCs Conference at the Pentagon.

June 26

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the retirement ceremony for Rear Admiral Donnell in Yorktown, VA.

FTA Administrator Linton will deliver the keynote address at the Project Action Conference in Pittsburgh.

June 27-28

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the change of command for the Commander, First Coast Guard District, and the Navy League National Convention in Boston, MA.

July 6-14

USCG Admiral Kramek will meet with Federal Border Service leaders in Russia.

July 12-19

USCG VADM Herr will attend meetings with the International Maritime Organization in London.

July 22

USCG Admiral Kramek will address the Master Pilot Information Exchange Workshop in Crystal City.

July 23

USCG Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Naval Officers Association meeting in Annapolis, MD.

July 24

USCG Admiral Kramek will address flag and general officers from all services participating in the CAPSTONE program.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Senior Advisory Group/Quality Council meeting with senior Coast Guard flag officers.

July 29

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Congressional Coast Guard Birthday Celebration at the Rayburn Building.

#### Media Inquiries

ABC Prime Time Live is requesting interviews with NTSB, FAA, Boeing, FBI and family members for an hour-long program around the July 17 anniversary date of TWA 800 crash.

ABC World News Tonight will air a story May 14 on the cost of the Los Angeles Red Line project and the debate over its potential worth. FTA Administrator Linton was interviewed for story.

Dateline NBC is preparing a segment on grade crossing safety from the engineers perspective to air in May. NBC has been backgrounded by FRA Public Affairs and will interview FRA Administrator Molitoris.

Dateline NBC requested information on OIG audits on airport security. Air date not known.

The Washington Post is finalizing a major two-part feature on the history and future of air bags. NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Charles Kahane of the Performance Improvement Division were both interviewed. Publication date not known.

The Washington Post is conducting research for a story about the U.S. maritime industry and is expected to address issues including the Jones Act, Title XI loan guarantees, and the Maritime Security. The publication date is not known.

Aviation Daily requested OIGs comments on an April 30, 1997, court filing by Great American Airways.

Morning Call Newspaper requested clarification as to what authority OIG has to enforce recommendations in reports.

Cleveland Plain Dealer requested comments on a reported investigation of FAA's PMI on ValuJet (OIG declined comment).

The Rocky Mountain News requested information on an OIG report on Extended Travel in FAA.

Hammond Times: Reporter from this paper as well as other regional outlets have called for reaction to a letter sent to the Secretary of Transportation from the Illinois and Indiana political delegations proposing relocation of the seasonal Coast Guard air facility in Muskegon, MI to Gary, IN.

Providence Journal: CDR Dee Norton, Coast Guard Gender Policy Advisor, was interviewed by the Journal for a story on gender integration.

#### FOIA REQUESTS

Information on hazardous materials railway and highway spills for the months of January and February 1997. -- Environmental News

Names of six former employees of SabreTech aviation maintenance company in Orlando whose mechanics certificates were revoked by FAA -- Associated Press

Documents relating to violation of FAR 107.3(a) by the Broward County Aviation Division within the past 10 years -- Sun-Sentinel, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Documents regarding incidents at Ontario International Airport where pilots were temporarily blinded by laser beams directed at aircraft on the ground -- The Press-Enterprise, Riverside County, CA

Accident report on a Cessna 182P, N7355Q, that occurred at the Duluth International Airport, Duluth, MN, on April 27, 1997 -- KBJR-TV6, Duluth, MN

Report filed by Midwest Express Airlines in March 1997, detailing an incident involving the Milwaukee Admirals Hockey Team; and a report filed by Midwest Express Airlines where passengers were asked to exit the plane on a Milwaukee bound flight from Las Vegas -- WTMJ-TV, Milwaukee, WI

NHTSA activities continue to be of significant interest to the public, and the subject of numerous FOIA requests. For example, since the beginning of this calendar year, NHTSA has received 30 FOIA requests, from the Center for Auto Safety alone. Twenty-four of these Center for Auto Safety FOIA requests have been made for information relating to air bags.

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of May 17-18, Michael Huerta will be the contact. He can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan ( CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:03:49.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of May 12, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE      May 7, 1997

FROM:            Secretary Slater

SUBJECT:            DOT Weekly Report -- Week of May 12, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Binational Conference in Mexico:** From May 5-7, Secretary Slater traveled to Mexico as part of the U.S. delegation to the Binational Conference. The Department has worked closely with the DOS to prepare for the annual meeting between U.S. and Mexican cabinet officials to discuss bilateral transport issues. This annual meeting provides the two countries with an opportunity to build strong bilateral ties, recognize accomplishments over the last year and plan for new joint initiatives for the coming year.

**Central America Aviation Open-Skies Initiative:** From May 7-9, Secretary Slater will travel to Costa Rica for the Central America Summit and signing of Open-Skies agreements. The following countries in Central America have initialed Open-Skies aviation agreements with the United States: Panama on March 12, Guatemala on April 25, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica on April 30, and Nicaragua on May 2. The Open-Skies agreements will be signed on May 8 in Costa Rica during President Clinton's summit meeting. Both Belize and the Dominican Republic made requests that could not be accepted by the United States, and therefore, will not be initialed.

**President's Caribbean Summit:** From May 9-11, Secretary Slater will travel to Barbados for the Caribbean Summit with President Clinton. In addition, at the request of U.S. Ambassador Hyde, the Coast Guard Cutter BEAR will hold formal onboard events, support Presidential security, and refurbish a school for the disabled in St. Thomas, Barbados. Coast Guard representatives have also been part of the U. S. team negotiating a new maritime counterdrug agreement with Barbados. The U.S. desires to conclude the agreement before the summit.

**Deputy Secretary Downey Testifies at Field Hearing:** On May 7, Deputy Secretary Downey testified at the Senate Appropriations Committee field

hearing in Landsdowne, VA, on innovative financing and addressed the Eno Transportation Foundations 5th Annual Leadership Conference in Washington.

**Dedication of National Airport Tower:** On May 12, Secretary Slater will speak at the dedication of the new Washington National Airport Tower.

**ValuJet:** On May 6, FAA held a media availability regarding the 1 year anniversary of the ValuJet accident (May 18). Guy Gardner, Associate Administrator for Regulation and Certification, answered questions from reporters. There continues to be heavy media interest with an emphasis on the status of fire suppression and detection regulations. On May 7, the FAA met with carriers to clarify issues perceived as slowing action on detection.

**Secretary Slater Launches DOTs Welfare to Work Program:** On April 29, Secretary Slater launched the Departments Welfare to Work program with a live DOT-wide, nationwide satellite briefing. The Secretary began the briefing with remarks concerning the Administrations and the Departments commitment to the program. He then responded to a number of questions from audience members in the Nassif Building and by call-in from employees as far away as AK.

**American Airlines Labor Negotiations:** On May 5, American Airlines' pilots approved a five-year contract. 69% of the pilots approved the contract, which gives the pilots a 9% raise over 5 years and 5.75 million stock options at \$10 below current market price. The contract eliminates, by its end, the two-tiered wage scale, which has been long criticized by the pilots. According to the agreement, American will be allowed to use 50 to 70 seat regional jets for AMR Eagle commuters. The Department is developing analytical tools, including economic modeling tools, to assist in future efforts.

**Air Safety Assessment:** On April 28, FAA as part of its ongoing initiative to provide the public with more information about aviation safety in international travel, announced that Thailand had been reassessed and found to comply with international safety standards.

**Grant Awarded to Alaska Railroad:** On May 1, FRA announced a grant of \$10 million to the Alaska Railroad Corporation for capital rehabilitation and safety improvements to passenger railroad operations throughout the state of AL.

**Grant Awarded to NC DOT:** On May 13, FRA will award a grant of \$2.75 million to the NC DOT to be used in the NC Sealed Corridor Initiative for Greensboro-Charlotte. The grant is for continued demonstration of a comprehensive approach to enhancing highway-rail grade crossing protection on a developing high-speed rail corridor and improving highway-rail grade crossing safety.

**Chrysler Penalty:** On May 2, NHTSA announced that Chrysler Corp. paid a \$140,000 civil penalty in connection with the failure of 1994 Dodge Ram pickups to comply with a federal fuel system integrity standard.

**IRIDIUM Launch:** On May 5, IRIDIUM 1, a McDonnell Douglas Delta II launch

vehicle, lifted off. The launch will deliver 5 satellites into low earth orbit. The IRIDIUM project, essentially a satellite-based, cellular phone network consists of spacecraft in 6 planes of 11 spacecraft each. The system permits any type of telephone transmission, voice, data, fax, or paging, for worldwide use. This is the first Delta launch since their Air Force failure, but steps have been taken by McDonnell Douglas to decrease the probability that the same failure would occur.

Summer Aide Agreement with Anacostia High School: The Department is working with the D.C. Government, "Project Accord," and the D.C. public schools to place Anacostia High students with various offices in the General Counsel's Office as summer aides. Funding will be provided through a District program. We will be providing organized mentoring/career development assistance to the students.

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW): PSRW is being celebrated the week of May 5-11. The Department will have exhibits on the national Mall from May 8-10. Headquarters and field employees received a special employee PSRW newsletter, and a departmental brochure will be distributed on the Mall.

Operation BORDER SHIELD Makes First Seizure: On April 25, Coast Guard and Customs personnel operating in support of this operation off Southern California, seized 322 lbs of marijuana from a small boat off San Diego, CA and arrested 3 individuals. This is the first seizure for BORDER SHIELD.

Third Seizure for Operation GULF SHIELD: On April 30, Coast Guard and Customs personnel seized 1,025 lbs of marijuana, arrested 5, and seized a Mexican lancha, fast boat, attempting to smuggle narcotics on Boca Chica Beach, TX.

Attempted Penetration of FAA Information System: During the weekend of April 26-28, a computer system located at the University of York, United Kingdom, made several attempts via the Internet to access FAA data systems at the Aeronautical Center. Attempts were detected and blocked by a system security firewall. FAA Security is working with the FBI to investigate.

#### Foreign Airport Security Assessments:

Russian Far East: From May 3 to 17, FAA security specialists will conduct foreign airport assessments and air carrier station inspections in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Khabarovsk.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti: From April 27-May 1, FAA security personnel and Haitian Government officials cooperated in the development of an action plan for implementation of airport security enhancements at Port-au-Prince.

Afghanistan: Extension of SFAR 67: The Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) 67, Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Territory and Airspace of Afghanistan, will be extended this week for another year. The Wakhan Corridor in the extreme northeast corner of Afghanistan will be exempted. Several non-U.S. air carriers currently operate over the Wakhan

Peninsula.

**Avianca Repair Station Inspection:** Inspectors from the Miami International Field Office conducted an inspection of the Avianca Repair Station in Bogota, Colombia. They noted that traceability and documentation of parts and components were almost nonexistent. Further inspection revealed that systemic problems existed throughout the stockroom. The Colombian Aeronautica Civil (CAC) was briefed on the findings. The inspectors will meet with the CAC to discuss further actions to be taken with Avianca and to perform a joint inspection of Avianca's facility.

**Sikorsky Blade Assembly Airworthiness Directive:** On April 30, FAA issued an airworthiness directive after discovery of a manufacturing defect that may cause disbonding and separation of portions of the main rotor blade assembly.

**Airport Revenue Diversion - Los Angeles:** On April 30, the Los Angeles City Council voted 8-2 to return a disputed \$30.3 million to the Airports Department, in order to receive \$56 million in frozen AIP funds. News reports state that the City Council's move was part of a negotiated strategy between the Council president, the mayor, and the Airports Department director on the one hand, and the Air Transport Association (ATA), on the other hand, under which the ATA would back off of the \$58 million Century Freeway dispute and support the proposed \$12 billion expansion of LAX. The \$30.0 million in dispute arose from a transfer in 1996 of about \$31.1 million to the City general fund as payment for claimed unreimbursed City contributions to the airports dating from the 1920s. The amount in dispute was found by FAA to be unjustified legally and factually and to constitute unlawful airport revenue diversion.

**SabreTech Emergency Order:** On April 29, FAA issued emergency orders revoking the mechanic certificates for 6 mechanics at SabreTech's Orlando, FL, repair station for improper performance of maintenance items on a civil aircraft and the falsification of maintenance records. This action is unrelated to ValuJet.

**Rasmak Jet Emergency Order:** On May 2, FAA revoked the air carrier operating certificate of Rasmak Jet Charter of El Paso, TX, for conducting numerous revenue flights using unairworthy aircraft. Rasmak is a Part 135 carrier involved principally with the carriage of freight.

**Airworthiness Directive (AD) re Trent-Powered 777's:** On April 30, FAA ordered inspections and a halt to extended range twin-engine operations to the U.S. of Boeing 777's powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 800 engines until new parts can be installed. This action was taken after a United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority report of 10 incidents of oil loss and one of a bearing retainer failure. It is intended to prevent in-flight engine shutdowns and airplane diversions caused by oil loss and from bearing failures. There are no Trent-powered 777's in the U.S. fleet; the AD applies to aircraft certificated for operation in the U.S.

**Economic Impacts of United States Ports - 1995:** MARAD prepared preliminary estimates for the economic impacts of U.S. ports for 1995.

For 1995, the United States port industry contributed approximately 14 million jobs and \$500 million in wages to the Nation's economy.

**Disadvantaged Business Enterprise:** The Department anticipates issuing a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) to modify its disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) regulations. The purposes of the SNPRM are to narrowly tailor key provisions of the rule in response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Adarand v. Peña* and to reinvent the rule to reduce burdens on state and local governments and small businesses. In preparation for issuing the SNPRM, we have consulted with constituency groups and briefed staffs of Congressional committees which are considering reauthorizing the statutory provision on which the DBE program is based. This provision is part of the Administration's NEXTEA proposal. The Department will formally send the SNPRM to OMB for clearance this week.

**Flood Relief Efforts in Upper Midwest Continue:** The Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team is deployed in Miller City, SD and Fargo, ND to support the EPA and local pollution efforts. Other Coast Guard operations are being scaled back as the waters are receding. The Coast Guard assisted 916 people in the latest series of floods in the upper Midwest.

#### Flood Damage Assessment

**North Dakota:** The Red River crest has moved into Canada, and river levels are dropping throughout the Red River Valley. The flood waters are expected to recede slowly, so damage assessment will be delayed for some time yet in North Dakotas most eastern counties and cities. I-29 has been reopened from Fargo to Grand Forks. NDDOT-FHWA teams are doing site-by-site damage surveys, progressing across the state from the southwest toward the northeast. The site reviews are expected to take most of May. NDDOT has requested quick release of \$10 million in ER funds to begin to address damage to Federal-aid roads.

**Idaho:** Field Reviews are being conducted this week by FHWA Idaho Division personnel in response to the ITD informing the FHWA that it intends to apply for ER Funds for repairs to highways damaged by mud and landslides. Damage estimates stand at approximately \$7 million.

**Minnesota:** The state has filed a letter of intent to apply for ER funds for flood damage. The preliminary state estimate is that the damage will approach \$20 million.

#### WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

##### Safety

**Governor Glendening to Sign Maryland Primary Safety Belt Law:** On May 8, Maryland's Governor Parris Glendening, legislative sponsors of the bill, and members of the state legislative leadership will conduct a Bill Signing Ceremony at the Annapolis State House. A reception, sponsored by the Maryland Committee for Safety Belt Use, follows the ceremony.

##### NEXTEA Amplification

NEXTEA: The Department is working with CEQ, OMB, and EPA to promote environmental proposals in the Administration's NEXTEA proposal. White House events are planned May 7 and May 9 for environmental and labor organizations, respectively. The Senate E&PW Committee plans its final hearing before markup, this week, focused on safety. On May 5, Deputy Assistant Secretary John Lieber testified before the New York City Council on the Administration's NEXTEA proposal.

#### NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

FY97 Appropriations Supplemental: Senate and House floor action are expected the week of May 5 on the \$8.4 billion supplemental appropriations measure. Senate debate is scheduled to begin on May 5, and the House is expected to begin consideration on May 7.

Nominations: On May 1, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee approved, by unanimous voice vote, the nominations of Ken Mead for Inspector General and T.R. Lakshmanan for Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The nominations of 3 Coast Guard flag officers and several lower level officers were also approved.

Ocean Shipping Reform: On May 1, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee unanimously approved S.414, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1997. The Committee also unanimously adopted an amendment offered by Chairman McCain requiring the Secretary of Transportation, before granting a Title XI loan guarantee, to obtain certification from the FMC that the carrier has not violated U.S. shipping laws nor is under investigation for suspected violations. Senator Breaux voiced strong disapproval of the amendment as drafted. Members also discussed concerns with the bills confidentiality, antitrust and discrimination provisions and highlighted the need to protect captive shippers when STB reauthorization legislation is addressed by the Congress.

"Turnback" Transportation Bills Introduced: On April 29, Representative Kasich and Senator Mack held a press conference to announce the introduction of their turnback transportation bill, entitled the Transportation Entitlement Act. The legislation, which is similar to legislation introduced last year, cuts the current gas tax by 12 cents as of October 1, 2001 and greatly streamlines the core highway programs. All funding for transit would come from the general fund. Many groups believe there is little interest remaining in a turnback proposal, but that could change if there is a long delay in reauthorization of ISTEA.

Motor Fuel Tax Bills Introduced: Two motor fuel bills were recently introduced in the Senate. On April 22, Senator Byrd introduced S.630, a bill to transfer into the Highway Trust Fund the 4.3 cent tax now going for deficit reduction. On April 23, Senator Baucus introduced S.634, which transfers 3.8 cents into the Trust Fund and .5 cent to Amtrak. Senator Baucus said he disagreed with the Administration's approach to funding Amtrak, but believes passenger rail service must be preserved. The bill was cosponsored by Senators Warner and Byrd. Both bills were referred to the Finance Committee.

## Secretary's Schedule

May 4-9

Secretary Slater will travel to Mexico, Costa Rica and Barbados with the President.

May 13

Secretary will travel to Minneapolis, MN to address the American Association of Airport Executives.

May 15

Secretary Slater will travel to Little Rock, AR to address the annual Daisy Bates Scholarship luncheon.

## Deputy Secretary

May 7

The Deputy Secretary will testify at the Senate Appropriations Committee field hearing on innovative financing in Landsdowne, VA, and also will address the Eno Transportation Foundation's 5th Annual Leadership Conference.

May 8

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the WTS 20th Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

May 29-30

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

## Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

May 7

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the American Society of Testing and Materials Symposium on Safety of Commercial Vessel Operations on Rivers in St. Louis, MO.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will meet with Canadian Marine Advisory Council in Ottawa, Ontario.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks to the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards and Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committees in Washington, D.C.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will testify before both the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and the House Subcommittee on Railroads to discuss Amtrak and High-Speed Rail, respectively.

May 7-11

VADM Herr will attend functions with the Coast Guard Foundation in San Francisco, CA.

May 8

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Baltimore, MD, to be the keynote speaker at the 1997 Womens Transportation Seminar National Conference.

Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs Palmer will speak at the request of Rep. Marty Meehan, who is hosting the 5th Distric Legislative Issues Forum in Washington, DC.

FAA Acting Deputy Administrator Belger will speak at the dedication of the new Air Traffic Control Tower in Kansas City, MO.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will testify before the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine in Washington, D.C.

May 8-9

OSDBU Director Hopewell will attend the 1997 Womens Transportation Seminar in Baltimore, MD.

May 9

Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs Stoll will participate on a panel for the WTS National Conference, Baltimore, MD.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the Hazardous Materials Advisory Councils 1997 Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs Palmer will address the National Conference of State Legislatures in Washington, D.C.

OST General Counsel McFadden will address the Coast Guard Foundation in San Francisco, CA.

May 9-11

Admiral Kramek will attend the Presidents Caribbean Summit in Barbardos.

May 12

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Atlanta, GA, to address the second of three FRA multi-regional conferences.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the MADD Youth Summit on Underage Drinking in Chevy Chase, MD.

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Kruesi will attend a meeting of the Metropolitan and Rural Strategies for Sustainable Communities.

Maritime Administrator Herberger will be the keynote speaker for the Opening of the APL Terminal in LA, CA. The Administrator will also be the luncheon speaker for the Maritime Day Observance Luncheon sponsored by the Propeller Club of LA.

BTS Director Lakshmanan will welcome the participants of the Workshop on Urban Passenger Transport and Environmental Statistics.

Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs Palmer will speak at the Presidents Council Luncheon at the Regional Airline Association Annual Convention in Reno, NV.

FAA Acting Administrator Belger will speak at the dedication of the new Washington National Airport Tower.

May 12-14

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will participate in the Russian-American Aviation Conference in Annapolis, MD.

VADM Herr will visit Coast Guard units and personnel in Clearwater, FL.

May 13

Admiral Kramek will attend the CG Atlantic Area change of command in Portsmouth, VA.

May 14

Admiral Kramek will host an event with Mr. Robert Bell, Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, at CG Headquarters.

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Annual Meeting of the United Seamens Service in NY.

Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs Palmer will address the Orlando Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

May 15

Admiral Kramek will attend a meeting with the Webb Institute in NYC.

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SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will attend an SLSDC Advisory Board meeting in Chicago, IL.

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May 28

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Marine Transportation Systems Vulnerability Conference in Leesburg, VA.

VADM Herr will cochair the semi-annual Navy-Coast Guard Board with the Vice Chief of Operations, Admiral Gehman.

May 29

OSDBU Director Hopewell will be a speaker at the Florida DBE Consultant Seminar in Tampa, FL.

May 30

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference, San Diego, CA.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Leiber will participate as a panelist for the Institute of Transportation Studies at

the University of California at Davis NEXTEA Workshop.

May 31

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Marine Day Ceremonies at the Maritime Exchange in Philadelphia, PA.

June 2

NHTSA Martinez will participate in a meeting with the Crash Injury Research Engineering Network in Ann Arbor, MI.

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will be speak on a panel at ITS America Seventh Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will participate as a panelist at the Bulk Transpo 97 in Portland, OR.

June 4

Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee (TIC) meeting in Washington.

June 5

Admiral Kramek will attend the Change of Command for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL.

June 7

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Safe Communities Best Practices in Orlando, FL.

June 9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Sacramento, CA, to address the third and final FRA multi-regional conference.

June 9-13

The Maritime Administrator will attend and speak at the NOR-Shipping 97 Maritime Exposition in Oslo, Norway.

June 10

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at Lifesavers 15: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices, in Orlando, FL.

Admiral Kramek will attend the opening ceremony for the Center for Marine Education in Paducah, KY.

June 11

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the Trial Attorneys of American Annual Conference in Chicago, IL.

June 12

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the annual meeting of Trial Attorneys of America in Chicago, IL.

June 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Minneapolis, MN, to participate in the Small Railroads in the Non Urban Economy -- A Partnership

conference.

June 17

Admiral Kramek will attend the DOT-sponsored program honoring Alex Haley and the 20th anniversary of Roots.

June 18

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the National Emergency Number Association Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

June 19

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the Annual Automotive Litigation Conference in Arlington, VA.

June 20

Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy change of command.

June 21

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will represent the Department at a pre-ministerial APEC Senior Officials meeting in Victoria, Canada.

June 23

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Kruesi will be the keynote speaker at the 68th annual meeting of the Association for Transportation Law, Logistics and Policy in Santa Fe.

June 24-25

Admiral Kramek will attend the CINCs Conference at the Pentagon.

June 26

Admiral Kramek will attend the retirement ceremony for Rear Admiral Donnell in Yorktown, VA.

June 27-28

Admiral Kramek will attend the change of command for the Commander, First Coast Guard District, and the Navy League National Convention in Boston, MA.

July 6-14

Admiral Kramek will meet with Federal Border Service leaders in Russia.

July 12-19

VADM Herr will attend meetings with the International Maritime Organization in London.

July 23

Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Naval Officers Association meeting in Annapolis, MD.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

## Media Inquiries

USA Today is preparing an article on the status of the 90-day review, expected to be published at about the time of the one year anniversary of the ValuJet crash.

Dateline NBC is preparing a three-part piece on the ValuJet anniversary, to begin airing May 11. They have requested FAA response to NTSB recommendations concerning hazardous materials and have interviewed the FAA assistant administrator for Regulation and Certification.

Dateline NBC is preparing a segment on grade crossing safety from the engineers perspective to air in May. NBC has been backgrounded by FRA Public Affairs and will interview FRA Administrator Molitoris.

Dateline NBC requested information on OIG audits on airport security. Air date not known.

The Washington Post is finalizing a major two-part feature on the history and future of air bags. NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Charles Kahane of the Performance Improvement Division were both interviewed. The series may run May 11-12.

ABC Prime Time Live plans to air on May 7 a segment about alleged sudden acceleration in Jeep Cherokees and Grand Cherokees. Chrysler Corp. is conducting a service campaign to fit about 2.2 million of these vehicles from model years 1984-95 with shift locks, and NHTSA is monitoring the campaign.

ABC Nightline has prepared a segment about NAFTA, inspections and truck crossings at the southern border, but has not yet scheduled an air date.

The Washington Post is conducting research for a story about the U.S. maritime industry and is expected to address issues including the Jones Act, Title XI loan guarantees, and the Maritime Security. The publication date is not known.

NBC News and USA Today requested a copy of the OIG report on FAA's Process for Assessing the Boeing 777 for Early Extended Range Operations with Two-Engine Airplanes (ETOPS). The report was not provided. To date, GE and Boeing have objected to release of information in the report. The OIG is reviewing their concerns.

Hughes Information Technology, Inside Edition and USA Today requested a copy of the OIG report on FAA's Oversight of Power Systems in the National Airspace System.

KTVT-TV submitted questions regarding OIG reviews and oversight procedures in general.

Gannett Newspaper requested a copy of the 1995 Audit on Westchester County Airport.

The Associated Press called about the Price Trends report. FHWA provided

extensive background information and advised the reporter to call Illinois DOT and other state DOTs to compare prices and other data.

The Associated Press called about the status of the Administrations request for \$318 million in supplemental funds to raise the obligation limit for certain states. FHWA provided a copy of the Dec. 24 news release and background information. A story ran April 29, which prompted a call from KFBK-AM. FHWA provided a copy of the news release.

Seattle Times, Miami Herald, Travel Weekly asked for Coast Guard comments on the recent NTSB recommendations to install smoke alarms in crew and passenger quarters on cruise ships. The Coast Guard is reviewing the recommendations and will be prepared to answer queries within the next two weeks.

## FOIA REQUESTS

Civil enforcement action, Case No. 94SW070287, regarding an incident aboard an American Airlines flight on August 7, 1994 -- The Dallas Morning News

Pilot errors, controller errors and vehicle and pedestrian deviations regarding surface operations at San Francisco International and Los Angeles International airports within the last 3 years -- San Francisco Chronicle

Near-collision incident reports for a 100-mile radius of Cleveland Hopkins International Airports for the years 1991-1996 -- The Plain Dealer

A summary or list of issues and/or topics pursued by reports or members of the news media that is distributed to members of the aviation industry -- The Plain Dealer

Voice tape recording involving United Airlines flight 2327 on April 16, 1997 at Ontario Airport, Ontario, California; and voice tape recording involving UPS DC 8 flight on January 7, 1997 at Ontario Airport, Ontario, CA -- American Journal

Audio tapes of activities at the Redmond, Oregon Municipal Airport control tower between noon and 3 p.m. on March 19, 1997 -- The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon

Documents concerning the FAA and ABS Partnership or its affiliate companies -- NashvilleScene City Press Publishing, Inc.

Copies of all written comments received by RSPA in response to its Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (dated June 7, 1989) and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (dated March 18, 1991) regarding hydrogen sulfide levels in natural gas pipelines. -- The Houston Chronicle

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of May 10-11, Jackie Lowey will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan ( CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:23:41.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the week of April 28, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE      April 23, 1997

FROM:            Secretary Slater

SUBJECT:            DOT Weekly Report -- Week of April 28, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

**North Dakota Visit:** On April 22, Secretary Slater joined President Clinton and other Cabinet members in traveling to Grand Forks, ND to tour flood damage. Secretary Slater had joined Vice President Gore in a tour of spring flood damage April 11, and had toured the region with Senator Byron Dorgan April 4.

**Midwest Flood Response Continues:** April 22 marked the 52nd day of Coast Guard response to flooding in the Midwest. In the Upper Midwest, the Coast Guard had evacuated or assisted over 850 people. The focus of the Coast Guards current effort is directed along the Red, St. Croix, Missouri, Minnesota, and Upper Mississippi Rivers. Over 80 Coast Guard active, reserve, auxiliary, and civilian personnel, 2 helicopters, and numerous small craft are supporting local relief efforts. The Coast Guard has also sent pumps and operators from Yorktown, VA, to Grand Forks, ND, to provide temporary fire main support.

**Secretary Slater to Testify on NEXTEA:** On April 24, Secretary Slater will testify before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on the Administrations safety title to its NEXTEA proposal.

**Secretary to attend NTSB Corporate Culture and Transportation Safety Symposium:** On April 24, Secretary Slater will participate in the NTSBs symposium on corporate culture and transportation safety. Internationally recognized experts will discuss how corporate actions and attitudes can affect safety, using NTSB accident investigation reports to illustrate this relationship. The symposium will provide a unique opportunity for members of the transportation community to hear from experts, discuss their own safety concerns, and identify barriers to improving safety and the communication of safety concerns.

Secretary to Attend Presidents Summit for Americas Future: On April 28, Secretary Slater will join the President in Philadelphia for the Presidents Summit for Americas Future. The Departments commitment to the Summit is to establish the Garrett A. Morgan Technology & Transportation Futures Program. The goals of the initiative are to build a bridge between Americas youth and the transportation community, and to coordinate public and private transportation, technology and education resources to better use the nations human capital while meeting the countrys transportation needs. By the end of the year 2000, the Department commits to reaching 1 million students through tutoring, mentoring and education curricula. The Department intends to utilize the 307 schools nationwide with which we have current relationships as well as add to that list. A key component of the initiative will include outreach to the transportation industry to help reach the 1 million students by the end of the year 2000. The Secretary plans to launch the initiative this Spring in Cleveland, OH.

Secretary Slater to Address Aggressive Driving. On April 29, Secretary Slater will participate in an event with Fairfax County officials aimed at combating aggressive driving and promoting traffic safety at the Belle Haven Marina along the George Washington Parkway in Alexandria, VA.

Secretary Slater Commends DCs Primary Seat Belt Law: On April 30, Secretary Slater will host a news conference, along with NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez and D.C. Police Chief Larry Soulsby concerning DCs primary seat belt law which takes effect October 1.

European Conference of Ministers of Transport: Deputy Secretary Mortimer L. Downey is attending the 81st Session of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, April 20-23 in Berlin, Germany. The major transport issues are European-Wide Transport Policy, Transport and Infrastructure Development, Crime in Transport, and Vulnerable Transport Users.

Pipeline Rupture in MO: On April 20, a high pressure 26-inch Panhandle. A house, located over 1/2 mile away, was evacuated. The line was isolated and the fire went out shortly thereafter. On April 20, an OPS-Central Region inspector arrived on site. Visual inspection of the failed pipe did not reveal any obvious indication of cause. The pipeline is being sent to Houston for metallurgical examination.

Train Derailment in OH: On April 21, a Conrail train consisting of 2 locomotives, 144 cars derailed 31 cars. There were no injuries. 9 hazardous material residue cars, 8 containing sodium hydroxide and 1 chlorine, were involved in the derailment. 2 cars, 1 sodium hydroxide residue tank car and 1 sodium carbonate residue covered hopper car, landed in the Sandusky wetlands. There was no reported release into the environment; although a small fish kill has been reported. The evacuation was lifted on April 22. Federal and state officials responded to the accident.

Earth Day: On April 22, Chief of Staff Designate Michael Huerta was joined by Virginia State Senator Charles Waddell, Delegate George Lovelace and Kate Hanley, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Commissioners as they

planted a tree at I-66 and the new Fairfax County Parkway. The Earth Day event was hosted by America's Treeways and Fairfax County ReLeaf. Mr. Huerta represented Secretary Slater who traveled with the President to North Dakota. In the main DOT building in Washington environmental exhibits were displayed and all the field offices were encouraged to commemorate Earth Day.

**Intermodal Northeast Tour Amplifying NEXTEA:** On April 17-21, Secretary Slater observed highway, rail, transit, air and port facilities in 10 northeast states, and testified April 21 at a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee field hearing on NEXTEA in RI. In addition, the Secretary awarded the following grants: \$6 million for renovation of the Jackie Gleason Bus Depot, Brooklyn, New York; \$35 million for continued construction of a tunnel to connect the 63rd Street and Queens Boulevard subway lines, also in New York; \$6.3 million for construction of the Frankford Transportation Center, a multi modal terminal at the northern terminus of the Market-Frankford subway-elevated rail line in Philadelphia; and \$104.8 million for construction of the Secaucus Transfer Station in Newark, NJ. In addition, Secretary Slater participated in a groundbreaking ceremony initiating investment of \$104 million in federal-aid highway funds for improvements along I-95 in Bridgeport, CT. A schedule of events is attached to this report. The Secretary also participated in an Americorps/Young Heroes event in Boston to mark National Service Week.

**Secretary Discusses NEXTEA at Senate Field Hearing in RI:** On April 21, as part of the 10 state Northeast tour, Secretary Slater testified on NEXTEA in Warwick, RI at a field hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Secretary Slater said that if Congress funds NEXTEA at the levels proposed, it would mean nearly \$710 million for RI over the next 6 years in formula-based funding alone, and more than \$36.8 billion in the 11 states from MD to ME. The hearing is the last of 5 field hearings on ISTEAs reauthorization held by the Committee.

**Chinese Negotiations:** FAA officials met with the Chinese in Beijing last week on a renewal/continuation of civil/military air traffic control cooperation between the U.S. and China. FAA presented the U.S. position; the Chinese replied that they were generally in favor of continued cooperation. They will evaluate the proposal and respond to us within three months.

**Korean Flights:** FAA published a final rule that prohibits certain flight operations within the airspace controlled by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by any U.S. air carrier or commercial operator, by any person exercising the privileges of an airman certificate issued by the FAA, except such persons operating U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier, or by an operator using an aircraft registered in the U.S. unless the operator of such aircraft is a foreign air carrier. The rule was issued because there could be a potential threat to civil aircraft in certain areas of Korean airspace.

**Pegasus Launch:** On April 21, a Pegasus air-launched vehicle, with a drop point southeast of the Canary Islands over the Atlantic, was launched. This is the first FAA licensed launch to take place from a foreign

country. This Pegasus carried a Spanish scientific satellite, MINIS AT 1, and a second payload owned by the U.S. company, Celestas, Inc., consisting of cremated remains. This launching received widespread press coverage.

**Airworthiness Directives for 777:** The FAA plans to issue several airworthiness directives regarding the 777 over the next week. A separate memo on the specifics will follow. The 777, a new plane, has been the subject of media and congressional interest. The 777 certification process is also the subject of a forthcoming IG report.

**Additional ValuJet Service:** On May 15, ValuJet is planning to add Charlotte, NC, and Flint, MI, to their service. FAA is expecting ValuJet's audits on both cities by the end of April and FAA will do station and facility inspections the first week of May. FAA inspectors will be on the first flights for each of these destinations.

**In-flight Aircraft Icing Plan:** FAA will release this week the FAA In-flight Aircraft Icing Plan, the result of our 1996 International Aircraft Icing Conference. The plan describes activities which will improve the safety of operations in icing conditions currently defined by the Federal Aviation Regulations. The plan is one of many international efforts to improve the safety of aircraft operated in icing conditions.

**New Computerized Monitoring and Control System:** FAA will sign a \$100 million contract this week to provide a new computerized monitoring and control system (National Airspace System Infrastructure Management System--NIBS) that will increase safety by helping to boost the reliability of FAA's 30,000-plus facilities and pieces of equipment across the U.S. NIBS is the centralized management system for FAA equipment and facilities that will help FAA technicians keep equipment up and running.

**Fayetteville/Springdale/Rogers, AR:** On April 28-29, the GAO will visit the Southwest Region Airports Division to conduct a review of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport project. They are interested in Northwest Arkansas project justification documents, all Northwest Arkansas grants issued and their documentation, all Northwest Arkansas Letter of Intent documentation, Fayetteville (Drake Field) and Northwest Arkansas master plans, forecasts, etc., and Fayetteville LDA approach.

**K-9 Explosives Detection Program:** As of April 18, 16 of 19 Category X Airports have signed Cooperative Agreements for the new explosives detection canine program. Three (John F. Kennedy International Airport, Detroit Metro Airport, and Baltimore Washington International Airport) are working with FAA in setting up their new program but are operating under Letters of Intent pending signature of the formal agreement. The annual recertification of teams at 35 airports under the old K-9 program is proceeding well with 7 of 35 evaluations completed. All teams presented for evaluation thus far have been recertified.

**Mexico City:** On March 17-28, a team of FAA security specialists assessed security at Aeropuerto Internacional Benito Juarez, Mexico City. A number of operational deficiencies in passenger screening and access control were brought to the attention of Mexican aviation officials who quickly rectified them. Benito Juarez International Airport will be assessed

again in March, 1998.

**Foreign Airport Assessments and Air Carrier Inspections:** FAA is conducting airport assessments in Cancun and Huatulco, Mexico, through April 25. We anticipate no significant problems. We are also conducting air carrier inspections in Narita, Japan, and Cancun, Cozumel, and Huatulco, Mexico. Again, no significant problems are anticipated.

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:** On April 18-25, FAA security personnel will conduct a survey of the international airport in Kuala Lumpur. Prior to the startup of U.S. air carrier service between the United States and Kuala Lumpur, the airport will undergo a complete security assessment.

**Aviation Insurance:** On April 14, FAA issued a NPRM on Aviation Insurance. The NPRM was published in the Federal Register on April 17, public comments close June 2. This NPRM proposes to provide for the issuance of insurance in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives, and for the issuance of aviation insurance for certain ground support activities essential to these flights. Also, the amendments would define the activation of insurance coverage under the Aviation Insurance Program, revise the process for amending insurance policies, increase binders for nonpremium insurance coverage, and reflect the expanded Aviation Insurance Program statutory authority. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on the aviation insurance program on May 1.

**1996 Airline Financial Results:** For 1996, the combined major airlines, as a group, reported the highest operating profit \$6 billion and net income \$2.8 billion in airline history. The 10 major passenger airlines, as a group, reported a combined operating profit of \$5.3 billion and a net income of \$2.4 billion during 1996. The 2 major all-cargo airlines, as a group, reported a combined operating profit of \$723 million and a net income of \$349 million during 1996. Except for TWA, every major airline reported an operating and net profit for the 1996. The 10 major passenger airlines, as a group, reported an operating profit of \$570 million and a net income of \$125 million during the fourth quarter 1996.

**France:** Formal negotiations with France are being held in Washington, April 22-24. The 2 sides are seeking a new bilateral aviation agreement that would establish a phased-in liberalization period, essentially an open transatlantic regime for services, between the 2 countries.

**Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 -- Accident Response Plans:** Under the Act each certified air carrier is required to file with the Department and NTSB a plan to address the needs of families of passengers and other victims involved in airline disasters. The NTSB has informally agreed to review the airlines' plans, which under the Act were due to be filed by April 9. As of April 16, 127 of the approximately 165 certified air carriers had filed their plans. The Department intends to contact any carrier that has failed to file its plan and will continue to coordinate with the NTSB on matters involving the plans.

White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security - Passenger

**Profiling:** The General Counsel convened a meeting with FAA and DOJ officials, including representatives of the FBI, to discuss civil liberties concerns with regard to passenger profiling per a recommendation of the White House Commission. Future meetings will take place to determine the appropriate review of the FAA system.

**Changes to Overflights in the Grand Canyon:** The FAA, in coordination with NPS and DOI, is planning to propose changes to the recently adopted rule on overflights of Grand Canyon National Park by air tour operators. The rule works to restore the natural quiet of the Grand Canyon. There are 2 main changes. First, on the west end of the park, the "National Canyon Corridor" route would be moved and opened to all tour operators. FAA and NPS believe that, in the absence of this change, there will be an unacceptable concentration of traffic at another point of the park, which raises some safety concerns. Moving the route will also help protect a number of important sites holy to the Havasupai tribe. The second change will create an "incentive" route in the east end of the park. This route would be open only to operators of the most noise-efficient aircraft. The hope is that this will encourage operators to switch to quiet technology more quickly than would be required by the recently adopted rule.

**Airport Revenue Diversion - Los Angeles:** In late September, 1996, the City of Los Angeles (City), owner and operator of Los Angeles International, Ontario, Palmdale and Van Nuys airports, transferred \$31 million from its Airports Department to the City's general fund for decades-old claimed unreimbursed expenses. In March, the FAA issued a Director's Determination, finding that \$30.3 million was illegally transferred and suspended AIP grant payments and eligibility for new FAA grants for 180 days or until further notice. On April 9, the City requested a hearing on the Determination, submitted documentation to justify about \$20 million of the transfer, and indicated that it would document the remainder of the transfer by the date of the hearing. On April 15, the FAA issued a Hearing Order, which Counsel reviewed, assigning the matter to a hearing officer and directing him to issue an initial decision by July 7.

**Combined Counterdrug Operation with Haitian Ship rider:** From April 18-21, Coast Guard cutters SENECA and BEAR conducted a combined counterdrug operation inside the territorial waters of Haiti. A Haitian Ship rider is deployed on the Cutter SENECA.

#### **Secretary's Intermodal Tour from DC to Maine Amplifying NEXTEA**

Secretary Rodney E. Slater completed a 5-Day, 10-State Multi-modal Tour through the Northeastern Corridor. From April 17 through April 21, the Secretary traveled through the States of Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. He traveled via AMTRAK from D.C. to New York, by commercial aircraft and again via AMTRAK for a midnight ride from Boston to New Haven. During this intensive tour the Secretary met with approximately 1,200 people including 3 Governors, 7 Senators, 12 Members of the House and 7 Mayors. He also met with every State Secretary of Transportation. Throughout his Northeastern Tour the Secretary amplified the message of the Administrations proposed National Economic Crossroads

Transportation Efficiency Act (NEXTEA). The tour included the recognition of Earth Day and National Service Week. Safety was also highlighted throughout the tour.

The Secretary received excellent broadcast and print coverage throughout the trip as well as appearing live on the David Brudnoy Show in Boston, the Judy Jarvis Show which is syndicated and the Ted Efav Show in New Jersey.

April 17

District of Columbia: The Secretary began his 5-day multi modal tour with the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) event at the National Press Club. The Secretary, accompanied by NHTSA Administrator Martinez, kicked off National Drive Safely at Work Week which is April 20 - 26. He boarded AMTRAK and was given a demonstration by RSPA Administrator Sharma and other officials on Operation Respond - Emergency Response.

Maryland: The Secretary was greeted by Mayor Schموke in Baltimore where he visited the Baltimore Civil War Museum which features history of African Americans use of underground railroads. On board AMTRAK, the Secretary met with Delaware Governor Tom Carper and State DOT Secretary Anne Canby.

Delaware: Secretary Slater visited Wilmington, DE and participated in an outreach session with 40 city, county and State representatives and transportation officials. He also toured the proposed Riverfront Economic Development project.

Pennsylvania: Secretary Slater traveled to Philadelphia on AMTRAK and celebrated Earth Day by leading a discussion with local bicyclists. He was the keynote speaker at PENJERDEL, a regional public/private organization with membership that includes transportation, business and community leaders. Mayor Rendell joined the Secretary at the dinner. In his remarks, the Secretary touted President Clintons transportation reauthorization bill, NEXTEA as well as the upcoming President's Summit for America's Future. FTA Administrator Linton accompanied the Secretary during his entire visit to Philadelphia.

April 18

Pennsylvania: The Secretary toured Old North Philadelphia Train Station, an economic redevelopment project. The tour was given by Rep. Foglietta and local transportation officials.

Secretary Slater, accompanied by Rep. Borski, made a FTA Grant announcement of \$6.3 million for the Frankford Elevated Reconstruction Project. This is an example of a major reconstruction effort being performed on a 75 year old rail line while keeping the line running. After the check presentation, the Secretary took an inaugural ride on one of the new trains.

While traveling on AMTRAK enroute to New York City, the Secretary met with Rep. Rothman to discuss local New Jersey transportation issues of concern to the Congressman.

New York: Secretary Slater made a FTA Grant announcement of \$6 million to NYMTA in Brooklyn at the Jackie Gleason Bus Depot. The grant allows the depot to make modifications that will allow for the operation of buses fueled by compressed natural gas. Rep. Towns joined the Secretary for the event.

Secretary Slater then traveled to Queens and made a FTA Grant announcement of \$35 million, the final increment in federal funding to MTA for the connection between the 63rd St. tunnel and the Queens Blvd subway line. Reps. Maloney and Manton joined the Secretary.

The Secretary, accompanied by Acting FHWA Administrator Gravey, met with Northeast state DOT Secretaries for an in-depth discussion of NEXTEA.

#### April 19

New Hampshire: The Secretary attended a breakfast meeting hosted by Governor Jeanne Shaheen to discuss NEXTEA and New Hampshire's transportation priorities. Representatives Sununu and Bass participated in the meeting.

Massachusetts: Secretary Slater amplified National Service Week by speaking to the Young Heroes group of the Boston AmeriCorps program. Additionally, he rode the T with the corps and performed community service at a used clothing store that raises money for people with AIDS.

Maine: The Secretary traveled to Auburn for a briefing by local officials on the Auburn Intermodal Freight Transfer Facility. Senators Snowe and Collins, as well as Reps. Baldacci and Allen attended this event. In Portland, the Secretary amplified Welfare to Work initiatives by holding a roundtable discussion with several women who are former welfare recipients and are now employed in transportation trades. Both Senators and Rep. Tom Allen attended. He then toured the WILLOW, a high-tech U.S. Coast Guard Cutter based in Portland and then boarded the USCG Cutter SHACKLE for a tour of the Harbor. The tour included a look at the Million Dollar bridge which had been hit by a tanker in 1996 and a discussion of the Coast Guard efforts during the clean up of the recent oil spill in the Harbor. The Secretary had a private meeting with Governor King. Additionally, Rep. Allen hosted a reception and discussion of NEXTEA and transportation issues for representatives of the Maine transportation community. Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey accompanied the Secretary during all of the events in Maine.

#### April 20

Connecticut: Before attending Sunday services at the Bethel AME Church, the Secretary received a briefing from New Haven Mayor DeStefano on the transportation concerns in New Haven. The Secretary was joined in Bridgeport by Senator Lieberman for a groundbreaking event on I-95 which is being reconstructed at a cost of \$410 to improve mobility and safety.

#### April 21

Rhode Island: Secretary Slater met with Senator Chafee and Gov. Almond in

Providence for Breakfast. He then testified before a field hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee chaired by Senator Chafee. Also in attendance during the hearing were Senator Reed and Rep. Weygand. The Secretary received a briefing on T.F. Green Airport from airport officials.

New Jersey: In Newark the Secretary made a FTA Grant announcement of \$104.8 million to the New Jersey Transit Corp. These funds will be used for the Seacaucus Transfer element of the NJ Urban Core Project, which reduces commuting times, encourages transit use and expands capacity for rail and light rail mass transit. Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli, Reps. Menendez, Payne, and Mayor James attended. Accompanied by Senator Lautenberg, Rep. Menendez and MARAD Administrator Herberger, the Secretary participated in a discussion of the issues surrounding the New York/New Jersey Port. The roundtable was hosted by Sealand and included 40 companies and organizations involved in the Port.

## WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

### Welfare to Work

Job Training for Welfare Recipients: Through DOT's 5-year relationship with the National Rural Development Partnership, located in USDA's Rural Development mission area, contacts within MT DOT were provided so that the MT DOT, MT Human Resources Department, and MT Contractors Association could coordinate efforts to train welfare recipients for transportation-related construction jobs. This is an example of how the Department has a positive impact on coordination and collaboration at the state level through involvement with an innovative partnership of Federal, state, and local government agencies as well as the business and non-profit communities.

### Reinvention

The Department has crafted a reinvention experiment for streamlining certain aspects of the 8(a) contracting process. SBA has agreed with the streamlining concept and we have jointly developed and signed a MOU on January 23 to begin the pilot reinvention experiment. This pilot reinvention experiment is being conducted with FHWA, USCG, and TASC. DOT and SBA participants have jointly prepared an implementation plan for the MOU, which became effective on March 1. DOT agencies have already awarded several 8(a) procurement opportunities under the pilot reinvention experiment.

### Environmental Safety

Puget Sound Marine Safety. On April 21-23, an expert panel assisting Volpe Center in study on accident prevention and environmental impact and response in Puget Sound met in Seattle. Panelists and the public participated in the working group of their choice. The study implements part of an Administration commitment to review and upgrade marine safety in the region.

**Binational Commission Meeting Preparations:** The Department is working closely with the DOS to prepare for the annual meeting between U.S. and Mexican cabinet officials to discuss bilateral transport issues. This meeting is currently scheduled for May 5-6. This annual meeting provides the two countries with an opportunity to build strong bilateral ties, recognize accomplishments over the last year and plan for new joint initiatives for the coming year. Secretary Slater is scheduled to represent the Department at this meeting to discuss on-going cooperative initiatives between the U.S. and Mexico, resolve outstanding issues, and to discuss possible new bilateral areas of cooperation over the coming year. This meeting precedes a meeting between President Clinton and Mexican President Zedillo.

**Antarctic Treaty Final Rule Published:** On April 14, the Coast Guard published a Direct Final Rule on the Antarctic Treaty Environmental Protection Protocol, 1997. This rule established regulations to implement the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996. These regulations guide U.S. owned and/or operated vessels to properly prepare for voyages in the Antarctic. This rule will harmonize U.S. regulations with international standards, and improve preparedness to respond to a spill.

**Coast Guard Units and People Receive Presidential Recognition:** The Coast Guard drew formal recognition for its support of national environmental objectives. An awards ceremony is scheduled for May 5 at the White House to commend Coast Guard and other federal recipients. Awards will be made to the following Coast Guard units and people:

**Closing the Circle (CTC) Award:** The Coast Guard won 2 of the 21 awards for the Federal Government in this category--Recipients are the Coast Guard Yard, Baltimore, MD, for its design of a hazardous material management system, and Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, which won its CTC Award for promoting a cultural change in reducing waste, increasing recycling, and protecting natural resources.

**Environmental Challenge Award:** Senior Chief Petty Officer Richard Peri of the Coast Guard Headquarters Office of Aeronautical Engineering was honored by the White House as one of 9 selectees for the Environmental Challenge Award. Senior Chief Peri was recognized for outstanding leadership implementing pollution prevention provisions of the 1993 Executive Order covering federal compliance with right-to-know laws and pollution prevention.

#### Bridge to Asia-Pacific

**DOT-DOE Presentation to Korean Gas Safety Corporation :** RSPA and DOE will deliver a joint presentation to 16 delegates from the Korean Gas Safety Corporation on April 25. The Korean Gas Safety Corporation is an inspection authority affiliated with the Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy which carries out gas-related services such as inspections, training and public relations, and develops and enforces gas safety regulations. The delegates are in the United States visiting various federal agencies and trade associations to learn more about American technical standard development, enforcement and accident response activities.

## NEXTEA OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Connecticut ISTEA Reauthorization Forum: On April 14, both U.S. Senators conducted an ISTEA reauthorization forum at the CT State Capitol. The Governor was the featured panelist. Other panels included local government, 2 mayors and a Metropolitan Planning Organization represented, transportation construction industry, CT Construction Industries Association, and environmental concerns CT Fund for the Environment, a transit advocacy group, and a transportation enhancement advocate. Without exception, all spoke in favor of reauthorizing a bill that looked very much like ISTEA, with minor improvements to specific items.

## NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

FAA Research and Commercial Space Authorizations: On April 16, the House Science Committee approved by voice vote H.R. 1271, a 3 year authorization of FAA research programs. The authorization includes a FY98 funding level that is \$17 million over the Presidents budget request for FY98. The Committee also approved H.R. 1275, a 2 year authorization of commercial space programs. House floor action is expected later this week.

FY97 Appropriations Supplemental: On April 24, the House Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up a supplemental appropriations measure to provide funding for disaster relief in several states. Included in the request is \$276 million for the FHWA to revamp highways damaged during winter floods. The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up its version of the measure by early next week.

Nominations: On May 1, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee is expected to mark up the nominations of Ken Mead for Inspector General and T.R. Lakshmanan for Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

### ISTEA Reauthorization:

On April 23, the House Science Subcommittee on Technology held a hearing on research and development initiatives in Title VI of ISTEA. The Department was not scheduled to testify.

On April 24, Secretary Slater will testify before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on the Administrations safety title to its NEXTEA proposal.

On May 1, Secretary Slater will testify before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the Administrations safety title to its NASTY proposal.

British Airways and American Airlines Antitrust Alliance: On April 22, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights and Competition held a hearing on the British Airways and American Airlines Antitrust Alliance. The Department will not be invited to testify.

**Dedicated Funding Source for Amtrak:** On April 23, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on the need for a dedicated funding source for Amtrak. The Department will not be invited to testify.

**Airbags and Child Restraints:** On April 29, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee has tentatively scheduled a hearing on airbags and child restraints. NHTSA Administrator Martinez will testify.

On April 30, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance will hold a hearing on airbags and child restraints. NHTSA Administrator Martinez will testify.

**Aviation Insurance Program:** On May 1, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on reauthorization of the aviation war risk insurance program. FAA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Policy and Planning and International Aviation, Louise Maillet, will testify.

**U.S./Japan Bilateral Negotiations:** On May 8, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on U.S./Japan bilateral negotiations. The Department will be invited to testify.

On May 21, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation has tentatively scheduled a hearing on U.S./Japan bilateral negotiations. The Department will be invited to testify.

**Barriers to Entry in the Aviation Industry:** On May 13, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on Barriers to Entry in the Aviation Industry. The Department will be invited to testify.

#### Secretary's Schedule

April 24-25

Secretary Slater and his staff will attend a Retreat in Warrenton, VA.

April 27

Secretary Slater will participate in the NAACP Awards Dinner in Detroit, MI.

April 28-29

Secretary Slater will participate in the Presidents Volunteer Summit for the Future in Philadelphia, PA.

April 30

Secretary Slater will participate in a Primary Seat Belt event in Washington, DC.

Deputy Secretary

May 5

The Deputy Secretary will deliver opening remarks at the High Speed Rail Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

May 8

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the WTS 20th Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

May 29-30

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

#### Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

April 24-25

DOT Retreat in Warrenton, VA, to discuss the Departments Strategic Plan.

April 25

RSPA Administrator Sharma will deliver remarks at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, DC.

April 27-29

FRA Administrator Jolene Molitoris will meet with the Oregon State Governor, Oregon State DOT Officials, and FRA Region Eight employees in Vancouver, WA.

April 28

FTA Administrator will give a luncheon address on NEXTEA at the Washington DC chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO).

April 28

BTS Director Lakshmanan will speak on Social Economic Change and Sustainable Transportation at the Public Affairs Lecture Series on Pricing Transportation Right-William Vickerys Legacy at Columbia University in NY.

April 28-29

FRA Administrator Molitoris will visit FRA employees in Region 8 in Vancouver, WA.

FHWA Acting Administrator Garvey will attend the AAHSTO annual CEO meeting in Des Moines.

April 29

Admiral Kramek will meet with Commissioner David Watters, head of the Canadian Coast Guard.

The RSPA Deputy Administrator will deliver remarks at the National Association of Pipeline State Representatives meeting in Williamsburg, VA.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at a conference in Tampa, FL, on fatigue in freight transportation.

Acting FAA Administrator Valentine will speak with USAF officials on a number of issues at Langley AFB, VA.

Acting FAA Administrator Valentine will address USAF officials on a number of issues at Langley AFB, VA.

April 29 - May 3

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage, AL, to meet with Alaskan Railroad employees and labor representatives.

April 30

Admiral Kramek will attend the Congressional Bipartisan Drug Policy Working Group Breakfast meeting.

Admiral Kramek will attend the National Propeller Club salute to Congress dinner in Washington.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage and Seward, AK, to participate in a special train trip hosted by the Railroad Operating Rules Association of North America.

FTA Administrator Linton will give the keynote address at the African-American Mobility Issues Symposium in Tampa, FL.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will be a guest speaker at the Primary Seatbelt Enforcement Law for the District of Columbia Press Conference in Washington, DC.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma will deliver remarks at the City College of New York in NYC.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma will deliver remarks at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ.

May 1

Admiral Kramek will cochair the J3/USIC Quarterly Planning Conference at the Pentagon.

Admiral Kramek will attend The Retired Officers Association reception and awards ceremony on Capital Hill.

FTA Administrator Linton will be the luncheon speaker at the Caucus on Rider Friendly Transit for the 21st Century, sponsored by Transportation Research Board and Florida DOT in Orlando, FL.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma to delivery keynote address at the 12th Annual Meeting of the U.S./Canada Emergency Planning Committee for Civil Transportation in Washington, D.C.

FHWA Acting Administrator Garvey will give the opening keynote address at Governing magazines Infrastructure 97 conference in Denver, CO.

May 1-2

FRA Deputy Administrator Donald Itzkoff will be the keynote speaker for the Academy of Rail Labor Attorneys convention in Dana Point, CA.

May 1-3

Chief of Staff Designate, Michael Huerta, will participate in the National Federation of Municipal Analysts annual conference in Coronado, CA.

May 2

Admiral Kramek will attend the dedication of the FDR Memorial.

May 3

Admiral Kramek will escort Senator Inouye to the launching of the new Coast Guard Cutter KUKUI in Marinette, WI. Mrs. Herr, wife of vice Admiral Herr, will serve as the ships sponsor.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Kelley S. Coyner to deliver remarks at the annual Hazardous Materials Advisory Council meeting in Baltimore, MD.

May 4

Admiral Kramek will attend the Dept. of Defense-sponsored Joint Civilian Orientation Course Welcome Reception and Dinner in Washington.

May 5

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Las Vegas, NV, to be the keynote speaker at the High-Speed Ground Transportation Associations 1997 International Convention and Exposition.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the SAE International Annual Government/Industry meeting in Washington, D.C.

Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Steve Palmer, will address the LA Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

Admiral Kramek will address the JCOC conference at the Pentagon.

May 6

Admiral Kramek will address the Baltimore Coast Guard Officers Association Luncheon.

OSDBU Director Luz Hopewell will attend the Air Force 50th Anniversary Salute to Small Business in Herndon, VA.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will participate in the Acadian Ambulance Company Air Rescue Demonstration and Training Process, Lafayette, LA.

May 7

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the American Society of Testing and Materials Symposium on Safety of Commercial Vessel Operations on Rivers in St. Louis, MO.

May 8

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Baltimore, MD, to be the keynote speaker at the 1997 Womens Transportation Seminar National Conference.

Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Steve Palmer, will speak at the request of Rep. Marty Meehan, who is hosting the 5th Distric

Legislative Issues Forum in Washington, DC.

May 8-9

OSDBU Director Hopewell will attend the 1997 Womens Transportation Seminar in Baltimore, MD.

May 8-10

Admiral Kramek will attend functions with the Coast Guard Foundation in San Francisco.

May 9

Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs, Louise Stoll, will participate on a panel for the WTS National Conference, Baltimore, MD.

May 9-10

Admiral Kramek will attend events in San Francisco with the CG Foundation.

May 12

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Atlanta, GA, to address the second of three FRA multi-regional conferences.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the MADD Youth Summit on Underage Drinking in Chevy Chase, MD.

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Annual Meeting of the United Seamens Service in NY.

May 12-14

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will participate in the Russian-American Aviation Conference in Annapolis, MD.

May 13

Admiral Kramek will attend the CG Atlantic Area change of command in Portsmouth, VA.

May 14

Admiral Kramek will host an event with Mr. Robert Bell, Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, at CG Headquarters.

May 15

Admiral Kramek will attend a meeting with the Webb Institute in NYC.

May 19

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the American Ambulance Association Stars of Life Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.

May 20

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Japan Transportation Research Centers Conference on Advanced Vehicle Technology in Washington, D.C.

May 21

Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy graduation in New London, CT.

May 22

Admiral Kramek will host newly-selected flag and general officers participating in the CAPSTONE orientation program.

MARAD Deputy Administrator for Inland Waterways and Great Lakes will speak at the Propeller Club Maritime Day Luncheon in St. Petersburg, FL.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will address the National Day Ceremony in Washington, DC.

May 23

Admiral Kramek will attend the CG Pacific Area change of command.

May 30

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference, San Diego, CA.

June 2

NHTSA Martinez will participate in a meeting with the Crash Injury Research Engineering Network in Ann Arbor, MI.

June 4

Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee (TIC) meeting in Washington.

June 5

Admiral Kramek will attend the Change of Command for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL.

June 7

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Safe Communities Best Practices in Orlando, FL.

June 9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Sacramento, CA, to address the third and final FRA multi-regional conference.

June 10

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at Lifesavers 14: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices, in Orlando, FL.

June 12

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Philip Recht will speak at the annual meeting of Trial Attorneys of America in Chicago, IL.

June 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Minneapolis, MN, to participate in the Small Railroads in the Non Urban Economy -- A Partnership conference.

June 17

Admiral Kramek will attend the DOT-sponsored program honoring Alex Haley

and the 20th anniversary of Roots.

June 18

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the National Emergency Number Association Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

June 20

Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy change of command.

June 26

Admiral Kramek will attend the retirement ceremony for Rear Admiral Donnell in Yorktown, VA.

June 27-28

Admiral Kramek will attend the change of command for the Commander, First Coast Guard District, and the Navy League National Convention in Boston, MA.

July 6-14

Admiral Kramek will meet with Federal Border Service leaders in Russia.

July 23

Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Naval Officers Association meeting in Annapolis, MD.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

## Media Inquiries

The Associated Press (Nick Jesdanen in Washington) called about federal gasoline tax rates, which HPA provided. (April 16)

St. Louis Post Dispatch submitted questions pertaining to Motor Carriers.

New York News One requested information pertaining to a New York Helicopter Crash.

The Washington Post requested copies of two OIG reports.

Cumberland Times News requested information on Airport Security.

The Washington Post is working a major two-part feature on the history and future of air bags. NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Charles Kahane of the Performance Improvement Division were both interviewed. The article had been expected to run April 13 and 14, but is being reviewed by Post legal staff.

Dateline NBC is preparing a three-part piece on the ValuJet anniversary, to begin airing May 11. They have requested FAA response to NTSB

recommendations concerning hazardous materials and have interviewed the FAA assistant administrator for Regulation and Certification.

Dateline NBC is preparing a segment on grade crossing safety from the engineers perspective to air in May. NBC has been backgrounded by FRA Public Affairs and will interview FRA Administrator Molitoris.

The Arkansas Democrat Gazette interviewed DOT Deputy Chief of Staff Jerry Malone on April 22 for a weekend feature.

OST Policy is preparing a commentary for Secretary Slater for Washington Times Insight publication, responding to the question, Should highway user fees be used exclusively for highways? William Fay, president of the American Highway Users Alliance will provide opposing commentary. Publication next week.

Lloyds List/Journal of Commerce: Reporters from these two periodicals called regarding Operation Safety Net, the Coast Guards new effort to regulate smaller foreign merchant ships in U.S. waters>

The Boston Globe: A briefing was given to a reporter on a cruise ship safety and the role of the Coast Guard.

#### FOIA REQUESTS

Correspondence between FAA and Representative Maurice Hinchey between 1992-1997 concerning a \$1.5 million federal grant awarded for Kingston-Ulster Airport in NY -- Ottaway News Service, Washington, DC

NASIP and/or NATI programs of ratings for Part 121/135 airlines for the past 5 years -- Consumer Digest Magazine, Chicago, IL

Revocation and reinstatement of the air carrier certificate and a Minimum Equipment List (MEL) for Prompt Air Inc. -- KSTP-TV News, St. Paul, MN

Transcript and audio tape involving the flight of Prompt Air Cessna, N7123J, at General Mitchell International Airport, Milwaukee, WI on February 20, 1997 -- WLKY-TV, Louisville, KY

Meigs Field Feasibility Study --City News Bureau of Chicago

Tower tapes, weather reports involving a helicopter N370WM accident on April 8, 1997 -- Palm Beach Post

Correspondence since January 1, 1996 from Sun Jet International to the Atlanta Flight Standards Office and correspondence from the Atlanta Flights Standards Office to Sun Jet -- St. Petersburg Times

Correspondence to FAA written by 27 specified Members of Congress since 1978 -- The Center for Public Integrity, Washington, DC

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 26-27, Michael Huerta will be

the contact. He can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan ( CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 11:26:28.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of March 24, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE      March 20, 1997

FROM:            Secretary Slater

SUBJECT:            DOT Weekly Report -- Week of March 24, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Secretary Travels to Chicago:** On March 14, Secretary Slater traveled to Chicago to hold a press conference at the Western Avenue Station of the Chicago Transit Authority's Ravenswood Line to highlight the successes of ISTEA and roll-out the National Economic Crossroads Transportation Efficiency Act (NEXTEA). Secretary Slater was joined at the press conference by Mayor Richard Daley, Senator Carol Mosely-Braun and Congressman Rod Blagojevich.

**ER Funds Announcement:** On March 21, the Department will award \$1 million to KY to repair highways damaged in March flooding, \$1.08 million to MN to repair roads damaged by storms, \$1.5 million to HI, and \$1.8 million to IL to repair flood damaged roads.

**Secretary Travels to LA:** On March 27, Secretary Slater will travel to Los Angeles, CA to address the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner. While in Los Angeles, Secretary Slater will also meet with the Editorial Board of the Los Angeles Times, attend a reception honoring Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, meet with Assemblyman Kevin Murphy, and meet with FAA regional management team.

**Secretary Slater DC Event:** On March 20, Secretary Slater participated in an event at the St. Joseph Day Care Center in Washington, DC. The Secretary gave brief remarks about child care safety seats and presented safety seats to some families. DC SAFEKIDS were on hand to help present and install the seats.

**Secretary to Join Secretary Babbitt in DC Event:** On March 21, Secretary Slater will join Secretary Babbitt in DC at the completion of the rehabilitation of 15th street and Raoul Wallenberg Place. The Secretaries will meet with a group of 40 elementary school children and make remarks.

This project is part of on-going efforts by the NPS and FHWA to improve park roads within the Nations Capital.

#### Mississippi River Flooding Incidents:

**Barge Accident in Lower Mississippi River:** On March 17, a tug and barge struck the Highway 190 bridge over the Mississippi River, near Baton Rouge, LA. The barges broke loose from the towboat and were carried down river. One tank barge carrying pyrolysis gas, ( a gasoline product), overturned and lodged against the bridge. The river was closed for 2 miles in this area, and Coast Guard, state, and contractor response forces are on scene. The river is now open to limited, controlled one way vessel traffic. The salvage crane is on scene. After the overturned barge is inspected for product, the salvage operation should commence on March 20. The bridge remains open to highway and rail traffic. Authorities initially evacuated 17 homes and 90 inmates in Port Allen, LA, due to the threat of hazardous vapors from the barge. The 17 house still are evacuated. Media interest is high. Due to the swift current on the river the Coast Guard has placed various restrictions on vessel traffic.

**Coal Carrier Aground:** On March 20, a 799 ft coal carrier, Ariel, ran aground in the Mississippi River Delta, southwest passage. The vessel was aground and the channel was closed; however, the coal freighter has been refloated. There was no report of damage to the vessel or pollution. This was significant because no ships could get in and out of New Orleans. The Coast Guard evaluated and oversaw salvage operations by the owners. There was high media interest.

**Runaway barges:** On March 20, 126 barges broke loose in the lower Mississippi River, south of New Orleans, which closed the river. All barges have been recovered and the river is reopened. None of the barges contained hazardous material or oil. One barge struck a pipeline at a nearby facility, releasing residual ammonia from the pipeline. No injuries were reported from this incident. There is high media coverage.

**Washington State Flooding:** On March 20, mudslides and localized flooding cause by recent heavy rains have affected surface traffic in several areas of the state. US 12 and US 101 along the Pacific coast have been closed intermittently at various locations due to high water or mudslides. Amtrak has halted passenger trains between Seattle and Everett due to a mudslide. Three trains are effected. The line should open to freight on March 21 and passengers on March 24.

**Flooding on Ohio River Subsiding:** The flooding on the Ohio River that resulted from a series of storms March 1-2 is subsiding, and the flood crest has moved into the Mississippi River where it is not expected to create any major flooding. All affected transportation systems have returned to normal except U.S. 51 where it crosses over the Ohio River at Cairo, IL; there, the bridge approaches are still flooded. As of March 19, the Coast Guard has assisted 800 people in the flood relief efforts. The Coast Guards primary area of emphasis has now shifted downriver to Cairo, IL, Memphis, TN, Vicksburg, TN, and New Orleans, LA. A Coast Guard rapid response force, (command center, cutter, helos), is also set in place in Vicksburg, where precautionary home evacuations have already been

directed. Two Coast Guard helicopters, numerous cutters and small boats, and approximately 100 Coast Guard active, reserve and auxiliary personnel are supporting the Midwest flood effort.

**American Airlines Strike:** On March 19, the Presidential Emergency Board established to achieve a settlement between American Airlines and its pilots issued its report and recommendations to the White House. However, the PEB continued conducting negotiations with the parties. News stories are reporting that a tentative agreement has been reached and substantive details are being worked out. The Unions Board is assembling in Washington, DC on March 21 to review the proposed settlement. If the Unions Board approves, the agreement will be put before the membership for a ratification vote.

**Japanese Port Practices:** Assistant Secretary Hunnicutt and Maritime Administrator Herberger met with senior officials from the Japanese Transport Ministry to convey the Department's support for the recently announced intent by the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) to levy fines on Japanese vessels calling at U.S. ports. This action is being taken in response to discriminatory Japanese port practices which disadvantage U.S. carriers. The FMC sanctions are scheduled to go into effect on April 14.

**St. Lawrence Seaway Opening:** On April 2, the St. Lawrence Seaway Administrator Gail McDonald will travel to Massena, NY, to open the Seaways 1997 shipping season. This will be the Seaways 38th year of operation.

**NHTSA/Ford Press Conference:** On March 27, NHTSA Administrator Dr. Ricardo Martinez will announce plans for distribution of the video Protecting Your New Born and an accompanying study guide. Both the video and study guide will be distributed to hospital and birth educators. Dr. Martinez will recognize the impact of Congressman Frank Wolf on this project and thank Ford Motor Company for their donation which enabled distribution of the video and study guide. Participating in the event will be Dr. Martinez, Congressman Wolf, Helen Petrauskas of Ford, and a representative of the Childrens Television Workshop.

**FAA Proposes Retrofit of 737 Rudder Components:** On March 18, as part of its continuing operational safety program, the FAA announced two Airworthiness Directives to require retrofit of newly developed rudder system components -- the power control unit, yaw damper system, and rudder hydraulic pressure reducer -- for existing Boeing 737 aircraft. The agreement to do this retrofit was announced by the Vice President earlier this year.

**France Aviation:** On March 10, the French presented a proposal for a new bilateral aviation agreement that would include a 9-year phased-in liberalization period, essentially to an open-transatlantic regime for services between the two countries. The Department is studying the proposal and have offered to meet with the French in Washington on April 21-24. On March 13, the French Government informed the U.S. Government that it would approve all U.S. carrier summer schedules for the summer season, provided that the U.S. approved all French carrier schedules for the summer. It is the U.S. intent to approve the French summer schedules.

**Loan Guarantee for Hopper Barges:** On March 7, the Maritime Administrator approved a Letter Commitment to guarantee obligations for CPD Barge Company (CPD), of Friars Point, MS. CPD's project involves the mortgage period financing of 18 jumbo hopper barges. The actual cost and the guarantee amount are \$5,787,090 and \$5,063,000, respectively. The barges will be constructed at Trinity Marine Group, Inc.'s, facilities in Gulfport, MS.

**NHTSA's Air Bag Depowering Regulation Published:** On March 19, the NHTSA published a final rule in the Federal Register that will permit vehicle manufacturers to depower air bags. This rule will become effective immediately. Manufacturers are expected to offer some vehicles with depowered air bags by this September, the beginning of the 1998 model year. These depowered air bags will reduce the risk of injury to children and small-stature adults. This rulemaking is part of NHTSA's ongoing program to improve the safety of air bags.

**NHTSA participates in 4-day NTSB Public Forum:** NHTSA participated in the 4-day public forum on air bags and child passenger safety, that was conducted by the NTSB during March 17-20. Four agency senior staff members gave presentations to the NTSB and the public on the status of the ongoing program to reduce the risk of injury to children and small-stature adults. NHTSA experts participated in all the NTSB panel discussions on a broad range of fact-finding issues, including air bag performance, state safety belt use laws, and child-restraint designs.

**Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA):** On March 14, the Coast Guard, USAF, and FRA completed a supplemental MOA for installation of a prototype DGPS at the Ground Wave Emergency Network (GWEN) site in Appleton, WA. This will be used for a prototype Positive Train Control system in this area. If feasible, additional sites may be sought to implement the nationwide DGPS network being coordinated by OST/P-7.

**Airport Revenue Diversion - Los Angeles:** On March 17, the FAA's Director of Airport Safety and Standards issued a Record of Determination, which finds that all but approximately \$780,000 of the \$31.1 million transferred from the airport fund to the City general fund was not justified, and ordered the City to return approximately \$30.3 million, plus interest, to the airport fund. The City has the right to request an administrative hearing on this Determination. On September 27, 1996, the City of Los Angeles, Airports Department, a federally subsidized airport sponsor, transferred \$31.1 million to the City of Los Angeles (City) general fund for claimed unreimbursed contributions and services for the period 1928-1971. It is a violation of federal grant assurances for an airport to use airport-generated revenue for other than lawful airport purposes. The City attempted to justify the transfer and refused FAA's request to return the \$31.1 million, plus interest, to the airport fund. On December 16, 1996, the FAA issued a Notice of Investigation under new, expedited procedures, to investigate whether the transfer constituted unlawful airport revenue diversion. The FAA invited good faith efforts by the City to resolve the matter informally, met with the City on numerous times to exchange various documents, and evaluated the legal and accounting justifications for the transfer. Until the funds are repaid, the four airports operated by the

City - LAX, Ontario, Palmdale and Van Nuys will not be eligible for FAA grants. (Palmdale is not currently receiving grants.)

**Miami International Airport Rate Proceeding:** Dade County, which operates the Miami International Airport (MIA), is expanding and rebuilding most of the airport. American Airlines, which operates a hub at MIA, will obtain new terminal facilities, as will other airlines using the airport. Under the rate methodology used by Dade County, all airlines essentially pay the same rate for airport facilities, so all airlines will share in paying the cost of the airport's expansion and reconstruction. Several airlines complained that the airport's rate methodology cannot reasonably be used to allocate the cost of the American facilities, since American will allegedly obtain better and newer facilities than other airlines. At Dade County's request, which American supported, the Department assigned the dispute to an administrative law judge (ALJ) for hearing. The ALJ's February 17 recommended decision found that American should pay a much larger share of the cost of its facilities. The Department's decision, issued March 19, reversed the ALJ on the grounds that the airport needed to modernize and expand its facilities, that the airport had adopted a plan to meet those needs which provided for the building of new facilities for many of the airlines serving the airport, that the American facilities would be comparable to the facilities being built for other airlines at the airport, and that the airport's methodology was reasonably applied in allocating the cost of the American facilities. Since the airport's fees are largely based on each airline's activity, American will pay almost half of the cost of all of the airport's reconstruction work.

**IG Review of LAX Revenue Use:** The Department's Fiscal Year 1997 Appropriations Act included language in the Conference Report which stated that the Department could not issue grants to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (LAMTA) unless the DOT Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued an audit finding no revenue diversion had occurred in Los Angeles in Fiscal Year 1997. On March 7, the OIG issued a memorandum to the FAA Finding about \$1 million in prohibited airport revenue diversion in FY 97. The FAA has 30 days to respond to the OIG's finding. Over \$35 million in transit grants to the City are at stake.

**Military Use of Alaskan Airspace:** This week, FAA will be issuing a determination concluding that a proposal by the Air Force to expand its use of airspace in Alaska for training purposes satisfies stringent environmental standards. The FAA will find that there are no prudent and feasible alternatives to the impacts on parklands and other potentially environmentally-sensitive areas that will occur as a result of the Air Force mission, and that all possible planning has been undertaken to minimize the harm that will result. These standards were applied under an agreement between the Air Force and DOT. Senator Murkowski has been especially concerned about the status of this matter.

**Interim Final Rule on Overflights User Fees:** On March 20, the FAA published an interim final rule requiring aircraft operators to pay fees for air traffic control services provided to aircraft that fly, but do not take off or land, in U.S. airspace. The rule is expected to recover about \$20 million in fiscal year 1997.

FAA Commuter Rule Deadline: March 20 is the compliance deadline for the Commuter Rule which set one level of safety for all scheduled airlines. Announced as a final rule in December 1995, the Commuter Rule requires commuter airlines to meet the same operational, equipment, and performance safety standards as major air carriers. It requires all commuters that operate aircraft with 10-30 seats to meet the same or equivalent safety standards as the major air carriers. Previously, there was one set of rules for aircraft with 31 or more seats and another for 10- to 30-seat commuters. The majority of commuter air carriers have transitioned to the same safety standards adhered to by major air carriers. The remaining air carriers include those that have claimed bankruptcy, removed seats, and are operating with nine or less seats, or are still working with the FAA to reach compliance. On March 21, FAA will hold an event or issue a press release on the 1 year anniversary of the one level of safety rule.

Operation GULF SHIELD Commences: Operation GULF SHIELD, a coordinated counter narcotics effort involving federal, state, and local agencies, commenced on March 16. The operation will project a significant Coast Guard presence in a remote area of the south Texas Gulf Coast in response to the threat posed by small outboard vessels, (known as launches), transiting from Mexico to the unpopulated area of South Padre Island. Current estimates indicate that 125 tons of marijuana and 12 tons of cocaine are transported into the United States annually along this route. The operation will also focus on fisheries violations and illegal immigration activities.

Womens History Month Program: On March 24, the Department along with the Federal Womens Program Manager is hosting a program to highlight the contributions of women in DOT, past, present, and future. It will also serve as a tie-in to the National Womens History month theme: A Long and Fine Tradition of Community Service.

The Departments program will recognize women from each of the operating administrations for the significant contributions to the community, their agency or the Department as a whole. In addition, the Department has invited young women from D.C. schools to attend the program and meet with the Secretary, other honorees, and senior women from the Department.

## WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

### Exports/Trade/Open Economy

Binational Commission Meeting Preparations: The Department is working closely with the Department of State to prepare for the annual meeting between U.S. and Mexican cabinet officials to discuss bilateral transport issues. This meeting is currently scheduled for April 10 and 11. This annual meeting provides the two countries with an opportunity to build strong bilateral ties, recognize accomplishments over the last year and plan for new joint initiatives for the coming year.

Chile: Consultations with Chile are scheduled to be held April 9-10, in Santiago. The objective of these talks is to reach agreement on an open-skies civil aviation agreement.

Italy: Aviation negotiations are scheduled for April 7-8, in Rome. The

United States intends to discuss liberalization of the bilateral agreement based on its proposal for open skies. The Italians wish to discuss the Department's decision to take no action on the wet-lease application by Alitalia and the Department's refusal to expand the Continental-Alitalia code-share arrangements.

## Environment

**Brownfields:** Assistant Secretary Kruesi attended a DPC meeting to discuss the Administration's Brownfields National Partnership Action Agenda. DOT has completed the plan to develop a strategy for incorporating brownfields redevelopment into transportation planning and programs were acknowledged at the meeting. The NEXTEA proposal includes a \$25 million pilot research program on transportation and land use issues, including brownfields redevelopment.

## Bridge to Asia-Pacific

**Cutter Trains Asian Navies:** The Cutter CHASE will deploy from April to July in support of CARAT 97 (Cooperation, Afloat, Readiness, Training), a major military operation in support of the United States cooperative engagement strategy in Southeast Asia. This large cutter will add significant value to mutual operations and goodwill efforts with key nations in Asia. The cutter will visit Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

## Undivided, Peaceful, Democratic Europe

**Coast Guard Deploys for Baltic Operations (BALTOPS 97):** The Cutter LEGARE will deploy to the Baltic Sea from May to August in support of United States peacetime engagement initiatives in Europe. As developing navies emphasize traditional Coast Guard missions, the Commanders in Chiefs (CINCs) strongly desire large cutters to train them in search and rescue, maritime law enforcement and environmental response missions. The LEGARE will train and make port calls in Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia (Kaliningrad), United Kingdom (and Northern Ireland), and Belgium.

## NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

**ISTEA Reauthorization Field Hearings:** The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a series of ISTEA field hearings that include Coueur d'Alene, Idaho on March 22; Kansas City, Missouri on March 26; Las Vegas Nevada on March 28; New York City on April 7; and Rhode Island on April 14. Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey will testify at the March 22 hearing and Deputy Secretary Downey will testify on April 7.

**FY98 Senate Transportation Appropriations:** The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation will hold the following transportation appropriations hearings: ISTEA Reauthorization on April 10, Aviation Safety and Security on April 16, and User Fees and Innovative Financing proposals on April 23. Department witnesses will be Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey, FTA Administrator Linton and NHTSA Administrator Martinez on April 10, a FAA witness on April 16 and Deputy Secretary

Downey on April 23.

**Ocean Shipping Deregulation:** On March 20, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing on the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1997. Surface Transportation Board Commissioner Linda Morgan is scheduled to testify.

**FAA Independent Financial Assessment:** On March 20, the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on Coopers and Lybrands Independent Financial Assessment of the Federal Aviation Administration. Acting Deputy Administrator Monte Belger will testify.

**Drug Interdiction Hearings:** On April 3, U.S. Coast Guard Commandant, ADM Kramek, will testify before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime on the Coast Guards drug interdiction efforts.

**Airbags and Child Restraints:** On April 9, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance has tentatively scheduled a hearing on airbags and child restraints. NHTSA Administrator Martinez will testify.

**TWA Accident Hearing:** On April 9, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation has tentatively scheduled a hearing on the TWA accident. Witnesses will include the FAA, NTSB, FBI and U.S. Navy.

**Aviation Insurance Program:** On May 1, the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is expected to hold a hearing on reauthorization of the aviation war risk insurance program. A witness from the FAA is expected to testify.

**Conrail Merger Hearing:** The Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on the Conrail merger on March 20. The Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) will testify. The other witnesses will be the 3 railroad CEO's involved, governors of MD and PA, mayor of Philadelphia, Port of NY/NJ, AFL/CIO, Amtrak, and a few large shippers.

**Deputy Secretary**

April 16-17

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Warrenton, VA.

April 20-23

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Conference.

April 29 (Tentative)

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the International Intermodal Exposition.

May 5

The Deputy Secretary will deliver opening remarks at the High Speed Rail Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

May 8

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the WTS 20th Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

May 29-30

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

#### Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

March 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will host the third meeting of the Maglev Study Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C.

March 26

Admiral Kramek will give the State of the Coast Guard address in Washington, DC.

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Frank Kruesi, will be a panelist on International Issues in Global Positioning Systems in Washington, DC

March 27

Admiral Kramek and Governor Bush of Texas will inspect Coast Guard and interagency units supporting Operation GULF SHIELD.

The SLSDC Administrator, Gail McDonald, will host a management workshop for Seaway operations employees in Massena, NY.

March 28

The SLSDC Administrator, Gail McDonald, will visit the Volpe Center in Cambridge, MA.

April 2

The SLSDC Administrator, Gail McDonald, will open the Seaways 1997 shipping season in Massena, NY.

April 3

Admiral Kramek will testify at a U.S. Congressional hearing in Puerto Rico on drug trafficking.

April 4

Admiral Kramek will attend the Presidents announcement on chemical weapons at the White House.

April 6-9

Admiral Kramek will attend the CSC Index in Arizona.

April 8

RSPA Deputy Administrator will deliver opening remarks at the FAAs Coordinators Conference in Washington, DC

April 9-11

SLSDC Administrator McDonald will be the luncheon speaker at the Canada

Grains Councils 28th Annual Conference in Ottawa, Canada.

April 10

MARAD Administrator Herberger will attend the National Defense Transportation Association/CEO Meeting at Scott AFB, IL.

Assistant Secretary Kruesi will be the dinner speaker at the National Industrial Transportation League Railroad Transportation Committee Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

April 11

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will participate in a Crash Injury Research Engineering Network (CIREN) Conference in Ann Arbor, MI.

April 12

Admiral and Mrs. Kramek will attend the dual-commissioning of the Cutters IDA LEWIS and WILLOW in Newport, RI.

April 13

FRA Administrator Molitoris will be the keynote speaker at the American Public Transit Associations 1997 Commuter Rail Conference in Dallas, TX.

April 14

FRA Administrator Molitoris will address the first of three Federal Railroad Administration multi-regional conferences.

Admiral Kramek will speak at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association, Port of NY Luncheon in NYC.

April 14-15

Admiral Kramek will attend functions in New York with the American Bureau of Shipping.

April 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Arlie, VA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

April 17

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Coalition of Consumer Health and Safety in Washington, DC

April 25

RSPA Administrator Sharma will deliver remarks at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, DC

April 28-29

FRA Administrator Molitoris will visit FRA employees in Region 8 in Vancouver, WA.

April 29

Admiral Kramek will meet with Commissioner David Watters, head of the Canadian Coast Guard.

April 30

Admiral Kramek will attend the National Propeller Club salute to Congress dinner in Washington.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage and Seward, AK, to participate in a special train trip hosted by the Railroad Operating Rules Association of North America.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will be a guest speaker at the Primary Seatbelt Enforcement Law for the District of Columbia Press Conference in Washington, DC.

May 1-2

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage, AK, to be the keynote speaker at the biannual meeting of the Railroad Operating Rules Association of North America, and will visit several of the Alaska Railroad Corporations facilities.

May 5

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Las Vegas, NV, to be the keynote speaker at the High-Speed Ground Transportation Associations 1997 International Convention and Exposition.

May 6

Admiral Kramek will address the Baltimore Coast Guard Officers Association Luncheon.

May 8

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Baltimore, MD, to be the keynote speaker at the 1997 Womens Transportation Seminar National Conference.

May 12

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will address the American Ambulance Association Stars of Life Awards Dinner in Washington, DC

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Atlanta, GA, to address the second of three FRA multi-regional conferences.

May 28

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference in San Diego, CA.

May 30

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference, San Diego, CA.

June 9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Sacramento, CA, to address the third and final FRA multi-regional conference.

June 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Minneapolis, MN, to participate

in the Small Railroads in the Non Urban Economy -- A Partnership conference.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

#### PRESS/MEDIA INQUIRIES

(New Listings above asterisk)

60 Minutes Interview Mary Schiavo: On March 23, 60 Minutes is scheduled to air an interview of Mary Schiavo, the previous Department's Inspector General. Her book, Flying Blind, Flying Safe, is scheduled to be released next week and is very critical of Airline safety and security. Time Magazine will publish excerpts.

Received several requests for information about the Title XI approval in January for China Ocean Shipping Co. (America), Inc. On request, provided copies of Jan. 30 news release and list of approved applications, with export projects indicated. Interested media included Transport Finance, Los Angeles Times, Dallas Daily News, and Fox News Channel (Fox also asked to join in a previously filed Freedom of Information Act request from the Associated Press).

Augusta Chronicle requested a copy of the Audit of Bush Fields Report.

#### Media Inquiries

(New listings above asterisk)

Good Morning America begins a four-part series on aviation beginning March 25. Former Inspector General Mary Schiavo will be interviewed.

CNN, March 18 or 19, will air a segment on converting military aircraft for civilian use. Acting FAA Administrator Valentine was interviewed.

Dateline NBC is scheduled to air a piece on turbulence during March. The Wall Street Journal is also preparing an article on the FAA's research efforts to predict turbulence. Publication date not known.

The Wall Street Journal is preparing an article on the commuter rule and voluntary compliance programs. Publication date not known.

The Today Show is preparing a 5-7 minute segment on the new aviation safety website, tentatively scheduled to air March 21.

The Fort Worth Star Telegram, March 14, called about the Highway Beautification Act. FHWA provided some background and referred the reporter to Texas DOT.

Following Secretary Slaters news briefing on the NEXTEA proposal, FHWA Acting Administrator Garvey was briefly interviewed by States News Service, Inside DOT and Engineering News Record.

Newsweek magazine, March 12, called about funding for the Smart Traffic

program.

Inside Edition is developing a story about personal watercraft safety. A reporter spoke with a representative from Coast Guard Boating Safety. No final story has yet been developed.

Fox News, AP, Los Angeles Times and National Public Radio requested additional information on the March 10 AP article on the Long Beach Navy base being leased to COSCO Shipping.

Associated Press called for a reaction to the NTSB meeting in Nantucket about the cruise ship Royal Majesty and the findings of their investigation which had suggested certain actions by the Coast Guard.

C-Spans Washington Journal has requested that Deputy Secretary Mort Downey appear March 20 to discuss NASTY. The request is under consideration.

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The Los Angeles Times is preparing an article on ATC modernization. Publication date not known.

Jim Lehrer Newshour may do a story on the upgrading of air traffic control equipment, with a focus on Chicago. Date of broadcast is not known.

The Washington Post is pursuing an article about the use of older ATC equipment at National Airport. Inquiries are being researched at FAA.

#### FOIA REQUESTS

Violation history of American International Airways from January 1, 1990 to the present -- The Plain Dealer

Findings of FAA/FBI Red Team undercover units regarding security at the Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach International Airports -- NBC, WTVJ-6

Radar tapes of TWA Flight 800 -- CNN

Documents titled, Daily Record of Facility Operation, FAA Form 7230-4 (4-82) from Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport -- KTVT-11 News, Dallas, Texas

Data on in-flight medical emergencies provided to the Office of the Federal Air Surgeon by MedAire, Inc. -- Chicago Tribune

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of March 22-23, Jackie Lowey will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Courtney Manning ( Courtney Manning [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 11:09:51.00

SUBJECT: EPA Weekly Report

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CAROL M. BROWNER

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for April 16, 1997

#### KEY AGENCY NEWS

EPA's FY 1998 House Appropriations Hearings: On 4/15 and 4/16, Administrator Browner, Deputy Administrator Hansen and the Assistant Administrators testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA/HUD and Independent Agencies (Lewis, CA) on the Agency,s FY +98 budget request.

Outstanding Mother Award: On Thursday, 4/17, Administrator Browner will travel to New York to be honored as one of 1997's Outstanding Mothers by the National Mother,s Day Committee, in recognition of her contributions to family and society as a civic leader and environmentalist.

Earth Day: Next week, to celebrate Earth Day, Administrator Browner expects to participate in several events including an event with the Vice President on Monday (4/21) to announce an Executive Order to Protect Children From Environmental Health and Safety Threats; and an Earth Day Event with the President on Tuesday (4/22) regarding Community Right-To-Know Expansion. Administrator Browner will also sign a MOU with several other federal agencies and senior citizens groups to amplify the President,s message on volunteerism and the need for all Americans to protect our environment.

EPA Deputy Administrator Hansen, Assistant Administrators and Regional Administrators will participate in Earth Day events in Seattle, Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Dallas, Hartford and other cities around the country.

Expansion of Community Right-to-Know: We continue to work with the Vice President,s office, OMB and CEQ to resolve issues surrounding EPA,s proposed expansion of the community right-to-know program (which provides facility-specific information on toxic chemical releases) to seven new industrial sectors.

We are also working with the White House on a potential event to announce the expansion.

**Children's Exposure to Pesticides:** EPA has awarded a three-year grant to the University of Minnesota to help assess risks children may face in different settings from exposure to pesticides. The work, *Measuring and Apportioning Children's Exposure to Pesticide in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Communities*,<sup>8</sup> is designed to: measure *total exposure*<sup>8</sup> for selected pesticides from a variety of sources (e.g. diet, drinking water, etc.) for a sample of children living in central-city, suburban, and rural neighborhoods in Minnesota; and compare children's pesticide exposure among an inner-city urban area, a suburban neighborhood, and a rural agricultural community.

Diverse information will be collected about each child in the study, and results are expected to improve assessments of risks to children from pesticide exposure and to inform and strengthen regulatory decisions about which pesticide risks are unacceptable and what should be done about them.

**Meeting with House Commerce Committee Democrats:** On 4/16, Administrator Browner met with the Democratic caucus of the House Commerce Committee to discuss Superfund Reauthorization. The Administrator emphasized the administrative improvements made in the program over the last four years, and discussed the Administration's work to reauthorize Superfund.

**Groundwater Contamination at the Massachusetts Military Reserve:** Last week, EPA issued an order to the National Guard Bureau and the Massachusetts National Guard concerning activities at the Massachusetts Military Reserve on Cape Cod. EPA ordered that the use of propellants and pyrotechnics in conjunction with training exercises be stopped because of contamination of the aquifer beneath the Reserve which supplies drinking water to local residents. EPA is now working closely with the Department of Defense and the National Guard on an agreement which will control further groundwater contamination while still respecting the training needs of the Massachusetts National Guard. Governor Weld, and Senators Kennedy and Kerry are supportive of EPA's action, as are the residents of Cape Cod for whom contamination at the Military Reserve has been a concern for many years.

**States Contributing to Regional Air Pollution:** This week, EPA identified 26 eastern states that will need to make additional air pollution reductions in order to address the regional ozone (smog) air pollution in the eastern U.S. Over the last 2 years, EPA has worked closely with a group of 37 eastern states to develop a broad regional strategy to reduce smog across the entire area. Based on initial results from this joint EPA-state effort, EPA expects that many of these states will need to make additional air pollution reductions. Final results are expected in June 1997, after which EPA would propose regulations to implement a regional program. This regional effort will help many communities meet federal air quality health standards for ozone and particulate matter (soot), which EPA has proposed to strengthen.

**International Wastewater Treatment Facility, San Diego:** A ribbon-cutting

ceremony to formally initiate the operation of the International Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) is planned in San Diego, California on April 18, 1997. EPA, through the International Border and Water Commission (IBWC), funded the \$239 million cost of the facility. Vice President Gore attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the plant in 1994. Construction of the facility addresses a major issue of long-standing concern for the residents of San Diego County. Since the 1980's, renegade sewage flows from Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico have flowed north through the Tijuana River into San Diego, causing numerous quarantines of San Diego beaches as well as public nuisance and public health concerns.

In 1990, the US and Mexico agreed to build a 25 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant in San Diego to treat sewage from Tijuana. The plant is now ready to begin operation, although the ocean outfall for the plant is still under construction and will not be completed until 1998. In the interim, the treated wastewater will be discharged to San Diego's wastewater treatment system. Once complete, the outfall will discharge the treated wastewater into the ocean approximately 3 miles off the San Diego coastline.

**Anti-Biotechnology Demonstrations:** The Foundation on Economic Trends announced that activists in thirty nations are organizing press events against genetic engineering in food as well as animal and human cloning. U.S. cities include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Detroit, Atlanta, Austin, Tucson, Albuquerque, and Iowa City. None are scheduled in Washington and we are not aware of any protests at federal agencies at this point. The protests are in response to the recent introduction of genetically engineered food onto the world market and the news last month of the first cloning of a mammal and the quickened pace of patents on transgenic plants and animal and human genes.

**News Story on Public Health Claims on Consumer Product Labeling:** CBS will soon interview EPA for a story on whether the public health claims made on numerous consumer products that contain anti-microbial substances (kitchen sponges, children's toys) have been proven. Under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), any company that intends to sell a product with pesticidal claims (that relate to public health) must register the product with EPA and show that their product works. EPA, however, is currently looking into a number of products to ensure they are in compliance.

**Export of PCB-Contaminated Ships:** On 4/11, the Office of Management and Budget held a meeting to discuss issues surrounding the attempt by the Navy to exempt itself from provisions of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) through the DOD FY98 Authorization Bill. Although issues were not resolved at the meeting, there was general agreement that all parties should work within the Administration without seeking legislation. Representatives of EPA, the National Security Council (NSC), DOJ, GSA, DOT, and the Navy were present.

TSCA bans the export of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and PCB-containing articles. Both the Navy and DOT (the Maritime Administration or MARAD) are

interested in exporting ships that have been &retired8 that may contain large quantities of PCBs and PCB-containing articles without providing notice to the receiving countries or giving the countries the opportunity to reject the shipment. The Administration,s policy is that Federal entities must meet the same environmental standards as private industry and that PCB exports should be handled consistent with the Basel Convention for hazardous wastes and other international controls.

Although TSCA bans exporting ships for disposal, EPA has allowed MARAD under a Compliance Agreement to export a limited number of ships subject to removal of the more concentrated PCBs and to providing notice to the receiving country. MARAD has asked that the notice provisions in the agreement be modified because of its recent experience with the government of India, which objected to export of a vessel once the presence of PCBs was made known. (The Navy has not been able to reach agreement with EPA on a similar Compliance Agreement and is not currently exporting any ships.) EPA is currently exploring several options that could allow export of vessels to be used for scrap metal. For example, EPA may require only minimal notice for very low level PCB contamination, such as PCBs found in paint.

## WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

The White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What the Newest Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children:

This Conference will help emphasize the importance of ensuring that children receive the early protection they need, and highlight the critical role EPA plays in fulfilling our nation,s obligation to protect future generations from environmental hazards. Dr. Phil Landrigan, one of the country,s leading environmental pediatricians and the Director of EPA,s new Office of Children,s Health Protection, will participate in the panel discussions at the White House.

Administrator Browner will amplify the President,s message on children,s health in interviews in targeted markets. In addition, EPA regional offices are helping to host the regional satellite conferences taking place around the country that day.

Project XL: On 4/16, Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen signed a Federal Register notice laying out mid-course improvements to EPA,s Project XL initiative. Project XL is a program that allows the regulated community an opportunity to gain greater regulatory flexibility in exchange for a commitment to a higher level of environmental results.

The Environmental Council of the States was instrumental in helping the Agency identify and clarify the issues. We have listened carefully to the concerns brought before us and clarified critical issues, such as superior environmental performance, regulatory flexibility, and stakeholder involvement. While we cannot say that we reached consensus on all issues, we have attempted to achieve a good balance. EPA remains committed to continuing the formal and informal discussions to improve the program further and will hold at least quarterly round table meetings with our

various constituencies and also conduct an extensive outreach effort.

## CONGRESS

### Legislative Action this Week

- On April 10, Rep. Shuster (R-PA) introduced H.R. 1268, the National Economic Crossroads Efficiency Act (NEXTEA), to reauthorize ISTEA. This is a companion bill to S. 468, introduced on March 18 by Sens. Chafee (R-RI) and Moynihan (D-NY).
- On April 10, Rep. Upton (R-MI) introduced H.R. 1270, a Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendment, to address the storage of spent nuclear fuel in Yucca Mtn., NV. This is a companion bill to S. 104 (not the Murkowski Substitute), introduced on January 21 by Sen. Murkowski (R-AK).
- On April 10, Rep. Engel (D-NY) introduced H.R. 1284, a Safe Drinking Water Amendment, to allow municipalites to reapply for exemption from filtration requirements under the Surface Water Treatment Rule.
- On April 10, Rep. Saxton (R-NJ) introduced H.R. 1308, a Safe Drinking Water Amendment, to disallow exemption or variances from Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) provisions. Saxton,s bill would also remove reference to cost/benefit analyses within SDWA.
- On April 10, Rep. Stupak (D-MI) introduced H.R. 1311, a Clean Water Act Amendment.
- On April 10, Sen. McConnell (R-KY) introduced a Clean Air Act Amendment, to address the CAA,s definition of volatile organic compounds. This is a companion bill to H.R. 679 introduced on February 11 by Rep. Hamilton (D-IN).
- On April 15, the Senate passed S. 104, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendment (Yucca Mtn.) by a margin of 65 to 34.
- On April 15 and 16, Administrator Browner testified before the House Appropriations Subc. on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies (Lewis R-CA) on the Agency,s FY +98 budget request.
- On April 16, the House Commerce Committee (Bliley R-VA) approved H.R. 688, a Solid Waste Disposal Act Amendment, that addresses EPA,s Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program.
- On April 16, the House Science Subc. on Energy and the Environment (Calvert R-CA) is expected to approve H.R. 1276, the Environmental Research, Development and Demonstration Act (ERDDA). This bill, introduced on April 10 by Rep. Calvert, would authorize additional funds for research and development at EPA through fiscal year 1999.
- On April 16, the Government Reform and Oversight Subc. on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs (McIntosh R-IN) will hold a hearing on the proposed Ozone/PM NAAQS.
- On April 17, Asst. Administrator for Water Bob Perciasepe will testify before the House Resources Subc. on Water and Power (Doolittle R-CA) on the CalFed Bay Delta Program.
- On April 17, Asst. Administrator for Air Mary Nichols will testify before the House Commerce Subcs. on Health and the Environment (Bilirakis R-FL) and Oversight and Investigations (Barton R-TX) on the proposed Ozone/PM NAAQS.

-- On April 17, Director of Regulatory Management and Information Tom Kelly will testify before the Small Business Subcs. on Government Programs and Oversight (Bartlett R-MD) and Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction (Kelly R-NY) on implementation of SBREFA and coordination with SBA on the development of Small Business Advisory Committees. SBA and OSHA representatives will also testify at the hearing.

#### Current Legislative Issues

Nuclear Waste -- Yucca Mountain. On April 15, Administrator Browner sent a letter to Sen. Bryan (D-NV) explaining EPA,s environmental concerns with the Murkowski Substitute. No action is yet scheduled on Rep. Upton,s companion bill

Clean Water Act / Safe Drinking Water Act. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is expected to address EPA,s Clean Water Act Needs Survey; the benefits of privatization; EPA,s Performance Partnership Grants; EPA,s Hardship Grant Program; and the Drinking Water Needs Survey. They will also address the need for or possibility of Clean Water Act reauthorization.

#### UPCOMING HEARINGS & MARK-UPS

Date	Committee	Subject	Testifying
4/23	Trans. & Infra. Water Asst. Administrator Subc. on Water Resources and the Infrastructure Environment (Boehlert NY)	Clean Water and Drinking Water Bob Perciasepe	
4/23	House Government Reform and Oversight NAAQS Administrator Browner Subc. on Natl. Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs (McIntosh IN)	PM/Ozone	Sally Katzen, OMB
4/29	Trans. & Infra. & Bob Wayland Subc. on Water Resources and the Nationwide Permits Office of Wetlands, Environment (Boehlert R-NY)	Wetlands: Tulloch Rule	Oceans and Watersheds

#### PRESS

Children ,s Health: Administrator Browner will amplify the President ,s message on children ,s health in Tampa, FL, Seattle, WA, Buffalo, NY and Cleveland, OH on Thursday, April 17.

Volunteer Week: Administrator Browner conducted radio and television interviews on 4/16 to amplify the President ,s message on volunteerism and

the Presidential Summit later this month.

Earth Day: On Monday (4/21), Administrator Browner will sign an MOU with several other federal agencies and senior citizens groups to amplify the President's message on volunteerism and the need for all Americans to protect our environment.

Mother of the Year: Administrator Browner will travel to New York City on Thursday (4/17) to receive the Mother of the Year Award from the Mother's Day Committee. Administrator Browner will discuss the need to provide our children with strong environmental protections, and the Clinton Administration's accomplishments in protecting children's health.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S SCHEDULE

4/17 Breakfast hosted by Audubon Society, New York  
4/17 Accept Mother of the Year Award, New York City  
4/18 Visit Edmund Burke School, D.C.  
4/18 Phone calls for amplification of & Volunteer Summit  
4/21 Interview with C-SPAN re: Earth Day  
4/21 Earth Day Event with Vice President re: Children's Health Executive Order  
4/22 Earth Day Event with President re: Community Right-To-Know Expansion  
4/23 House Government Reform Subcommittee (McIntosh) Hearing re: proposed air standards  
4/23 Lunch with Mary Gade, Environmental Commissioner for Illinois  
4/24 Address Los Angeles Town Hall re: proposed air quality standards  
4/24 Interview with Michael Jackson, radio show, Los Angeles  
4/25 Address National Conference of Black Mayors, St. Louis, MO  
4/29 President's Council on Sustainable Development Meeting  
4/30 Meeting with Dr. Angela Merkel (German Minister for the Environment)  
4/30 Meeting with National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee  
5/1 Senate Democratic Caucus Meeting  
5/4-6 G-7 Environmental Leaders Meeting, Miami  
5/9 Meeting with Mark Van Putten, National Wildlife Federation  
5/17 Address Society of Environmental Journalists regional meeting, Cleveland, re: proposed air standards  
5/22 All States Meeting (state environmental commissioners)  
5/22 President's Environmental Youth Awards  
5/23 Travel for Announcement re: Beaches Water Quality  
5/28 National Press Club panel re: proposed air standards  
5/28 Travel to Boston, MA  
5/29 Travel to CT

#### DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S SCHEDULE

4/17 Meeting w/Bill Long, Director of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development) Environment Directorate  
4/17 Meeting w/GAO officials re: EPA's Reinvention Program  
4/18 Address the "Friday Forum," a group of Washington-based industry representatives re: current environmental issues

4/21 Meeting w/Jim Lyons, USDA Assistant Secretary re: urban initiatives

4/22 Signing of Memo of Cooperation w/SBA Deputy Administrator in support of EPA's voluntary energy star Small Business pollution prevention program

## REGULATORY ACTION

Standards for Disposal of Hazardous Waste in Landfills: This week, the Administrator will sign two regulatory actions addressing the management of certain hazardous wastes (wastes from wood preserving operations, certain mineral processing wastes, etc.). These actions are required under the Land Disposal Restriction (LDR) program of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the law governing hazardous waste. EPA agreed to take these actions at this time in settlement of litigation. The LDR program requires EPA to set standards for hazardous wastes that are disposed on the land (including in a landfill) that minimize the threat to public health and the environment from those wastes. In developing these actions, EPA explored a broad range of options, reflecting our scientific understanding of the risks from these wastes, and the input we have received from stakeholders (including the regulated community and environmental groups).

## FOIA REQUESTS

This week, EPA received 532 requests for information. The Agency has received a total of 6,865 inquiries this year. We received the following requests of interest:

The Agency is considering a request from Jim Barnett of the Oregonian who is asking for communications on Project XL and communication between EPA and any member of Congress regarding these projects.

The Agency is also considering a request from the Hartford Courant asking for documents relating to the Region 1 (New England) Administrator's involvement in enforcement matters, and also minutes of enforcement agenda meetings.

Weekend contact: Peter D. Robertson  
Chief of Staff  
H: (703) 920-8428  
Pager: 1-800-759-7243 PIN 471-0595

cc: Kitty Higgins

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan ( CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:23:35.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report - Week of June 2, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE      May 28, 1997

FROM:            Secretary Slater

SUBJECT:            DOT Weekly Report -- Week of June 2, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Secretary to Kickoff Garrett A. Morgan Transportation Education Initiative: On May 30, Secretary Slater will introduce the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program in Cleveland, OH. This education initiative, which will be announced at the Garrett A. Morgan School of Science, reflects the Secretary's commitment to help 1 million students develop the technology skills required for the transportation jobs of the 21st century. The Morgan Program will promote math, science and technology literacy. The four key objectives of the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program will be realized via collaborations with other Federal, State and local agencies and members of the transportation and education communities. Included among the partners represented at the kickoff event will be: Peter Hellman, President and Chief Operating Officer, TRW; Jack Goldstein, Senior Vice President, SAIC; Erskine Cade, Director of Governmental Affairs, BP America; and Alex Johnson, Provost-Vice President, Cuyahoga Community College-Metropolitan Campus.

Detroit Chamber of Commerce: On May 30, Secretary Slater will address the Detroit Chamber of Commerce on Mackinac Island, Michigan.

ITS America Speech: On June 2, Secretary Slater will address Intelligent Transportation Systems America in Washington, D.C.

Deputy Secretary Awards Medals in Florida: On May 29, the Deputy Secretary will award lifesaving medals to the Coast Guard crew of rescue boat 41351 for their rescue of nine people on April 6, 1997. The awards ceremony for the Coast Guard crew will take place at the Coast Guard Station in Fort Lauderdale.

Lower Mississippi River Closure: On May 27, the lower portion of the

Mississippi River was closed 35 miles north of Vicksburg, MS due to the sinking of three rock barges that were being towed by the tug HORTENSE. No injuries or pollution was reported, however, vessel traffic backup is expected. Heavy thunderstorms and rain may have been a factor in the barge sinkings. A survey of the sunken barges is currently underway. Once the survey is completed and a salvage plan has been approved, an estimated time for the rivers reopening will be available.

**Disadvantaged Business Contracting:** On May 30, the Department of Transportation will announced proposed modifications to its disadvantaged business enterprise program in light of a 1995 Supreme Court decision that called for a review of affirmative action programs using race-based classifications. The purpose of the supplemental rule is to narrowly tailor key provisions of the rule in response to the Supreme Courts decision in *Adarand v. Peña* and to reinvent the rule to reduce burdens on state and local governments and small businesses.

**Grants:** On May 22, Secretary Slater announced a \$2.4 million FTA grant to the Tennessee Department of Transportation for transit improvements. The Secretary also announced a \$2 million FTA grant to the Flint, Michigan Mass Transportation Authority. Additionally, he announced that Minnesota would receive \$1.3 million in FHWA emergency relief funds to repair eligible damage to federal-aid highway facilities in three safety areas along I-35. The damage was caused by arson fires in January 1997.

**Update on Great Lakes Aviation:** On May 23, Great Lakes Aviation and the FAA signed a Consent Order and the FAA approved the carrier for limited resumption of service on an aircraft-specific and route-specific basis. In addition, the DOT granted Great Lakes the necessary economic authority to resume operations, subject to continued surveillance of the FAA. After the initial resumption of limited service, the carrier will continue to work with the FAA to bring back additional aircraft and routes, although there is no exact timetable at this point.

**Inspection of Center Wing Fuel Tanks on B-747 Aircraft:** Boeing plans to issue a Service Bulletin in June 1997 that will provide instructions to operators for inspecting the 747's center fuel tank. This will gather data on the condition of the center fuel tank equipment. With the TWA accident still unexplained, Boeing's inspection of 747's will better establish the actual condition of the center tank fuel equipment. FAA will monitor the results and if deficiencies are discovered, will take appropriate action.

**Skywest Embraer EMB-120 Accident:** On May 21, Skywest Flight 5724, an Embraer EMB-120, experienced an engine fire and loss of all hydraulic power after departing San Diego's Lindbergh Field. The airplane landed without further incident at Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego. There were no injuries to the 14 passengers and 3 crewmembers. The Federal Aviation Administration is participating in the NTSB investigation of this accident.

**New Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport:** On May 20, GAO met with the Department to discuss GAO's concerns with FAA's process for its February issuance of a five-year, \$30 million plus letter of intent (LOI) to the

new airport, for landside and airfield construction. Senator McCain's staff scheduled a May 21 briefing with GAO. While the new airport will offer a longer runway, larger terminal, and better approach standards than Drake airport in Fayetteville and is located in a region experiencing population growth, the GAO criticized the FAA for not explaining how a new small airport would meet the statutory criteria for LOIs by "significantly" enhancing system-wide airport capacity. At the meeting, the FAA commented that GAO ignored or discounted the fact that FAA planning grants for the new airport originated in 1991; that the region's business community has endorsed the new airport and at least one air carrier is very interested in serving that airport; that the federal share is leveraging private sector financing; that the new airport will accommodate growth well into the next century; and that uncertainties are common with development of new airports.

Coast Guard Officer Tests Positive for Opiates: A Coast Guard Officer involved in the May 15 collision between USCGC Cowslip and Panamanian vessel Ever Grade has tested positive for opiates in one of the post-accident urine tests. All blood samples and other urine samples tested negative. The positive sample belonged to a female officer, who was assigned as the shipping officer at the time of the collision. Her responsibility was to provide radar information regarding other ships in the channel, a critical job during the low visibility (foggy) transit. The officer had reported taking legal vitamins and prescribed drugs. An administrative investigation is ongoing. The Columbia River accident has received coverage from the Oregon media.

Airport Privatization Pilot Program: The Federal Aviation Authorization Act of 1996 establishes an airport privatization pilot program and authorizes the Department to grant exemptions from the revenue diversion prohibition and other grant assurances for up to five airport privatization projects (one long-term lease at a major hub and either a sale or long-term lease at four other airports, at least one of which must be a general aviation airport). On April 22, the FAA published proposed application procedures to implement the program. A public meeting was held on May 21 to consider oral comments. Written comments are due June 4. The Department/FAA will consider the oral and written comments in formulating the final application procedures for participation in the pilot program.

Asiana Airlines v. FAA: Asiana Airlines, Qantas, British Airways, LTU Lufttransport-Unternehmen and the Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC) have each filed petitions for judicial review of the FAA's interim final rule which, effective on May 19, establishes fees for aircraft that fly over U.S. airspace without landing in the United States. The fees, which are mandated under section 273 of the FAA Reauthorization Act, P.L. 104-264, are intended to recover the costs of providing air traffic control services to over-flying aircraft. The FAA had previously denied several administrative requests to stay the effective date of the rule. On May 20, ATAC filed a motion with the D.C. Circuit to stay the effect of the rule. The FAA Chief Counsel's Office and the Office of the General Counsel are working with the Department of Justice in preparing our opposition to the stay request. The opposition is due to be filed on May 27.

Houston Contractors Assoc. v. Metro. Transit Auth. of Harris County: The plaintiff in this action is an association of Houston construction contractors, which challenge the DBE program of the Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority ("Metro"). After years of settlement discussions, the plaintiff moved for a preliminary injunction by urging that the DBE program was unconstitutional, relying upon the Supreme Court's decision of Adarand Constructors Inc. v. Peña. In April of 1996, the court granted plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction. The United States filed an amended application for intervention on September 30, 1996. The amended application was opposed by Houston Contractors, but was fully supported by Metro. On May 21, 1997, the court denied the United States' reapplication to intervene without explanation or memorandum opinion. General Counsel's office is working with the Department of Justice to determine the most appropriate course of action regarding an appeal of the district court's decision.

NEXTEA Amplification: On May 23, Secretary Slater participated in a NEXTEA public meeting in West Virginia with Congressman Nick Rahall. The following media representatives covered the public meeting: WVVA-TV (NBC), Bluefield; WOWK-TV (CBS), Charleston/Huntington; WOAY-TV (ABC) Oak Hill; WSAZ-TV (NBC), Charleston/Huntington, will pick up feed from WVVA; The Charleston Gazette; The Charleston Daily Mail; Bluefield Daily Telegraph. In addition, the Secretary was interviewed by West Virginia METRONEWS, a statewide radio feed, and WVPN-FM, the National Public Radio affiliate.

North American Aviation Trilateral: On May 27-29, the fourth North American Aviation Trilateral will be held in Arlington. The Deputy Secretary, FAA Administrator and senior management will be representing the U. S. in this meeting with representatives of Canada and Mexico. FAA objectives are to continue the ongoing dialogue concerning the development of a harmonized aviation system in North America for the 21st century. Security and GPS will be among the agenda items.

Begawan, Brunei: On May 27-30, FAA security personnel will conduct a survey of the international airport in Begawan, Brunei. Prior to the start-up of U.S. air carrier service between the United States and Brunei, the airport will be required to undergo a complete aviation security assessment.

Chicago Midway Airport: On May 29, the dedication for the Midway Tower will be held. Invited guests include Senator Moseley-Braun, Congressman Lipinski, and Chicago Department of Aviation Commissioner Mary Rose Loney. FAA's Regional Administrator, Cecilia Hunziker, will attend the dedication on behalf of the Administration.

Israel: On May 21, 1997, DOT issued a show-cause order in which we proposed to deny El Al's requests to renew its exemption authority to serve Washington/Baltimore, Dallas/Ft. Worth, and Orlando. This proposed action, if finalized, would have the effect of terminating the authority held by El Al to conduct these services. Of these services, El Al currently operates to Washington/Baltimore and Orlando, but does not serve Dallas/Ft. Worth. Our proposed action is based on the recent action by

the Government of Israel withholding bilateral rights from a U.S. carrier. Comments to the show-cause order are due May 28, with answers due June 2.

New Zealand: The United States and New Zealand will hold civil aviation negotiations in Washington, May 28-29 with the goal of reaching an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement.

Great Lakes/Saint Lawrence Seaway: With the Canadian Prime Minister calling for June elections, the Canadian Parliament has been dissolved and the Canada Marine Act which was in Committee, is no longer under consideration. The Canada Marine Act contained the authorization for Transport Canada to privatize operation of the Seaway with a private users group. At the moment, Canada is considering options for reviving the Canada Marine Act and its privatization plans. In the United States, plans for converting the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation into a Performance-Based Operation (PBO) are continuing.

Frontier Shield Forces Seize Cocaine. On May 20, a Coast Guard helicopter located a fast boat operating north of Puerto Rico. The fast boat dumped 840 lbs of cocaine overboard before being stopped by the Cutters ATTU and METOMPKIN. Several people were detained by the U. S. Customs Service but no arrests were made.

Tank Vessel Grounding in Tampa Bay. Early on the morning of May 22, the U.S.-flagged tank vessel COASTAL EAGLE POINT lost steering and ran aground in the Tampa Bay harbor channel. The 700 foot single hull vessel was carrying 11.7 million gallons of oil but there was no pollution. A boom was placed around the vessel as a preventive measure. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Tampa closed the Tampa Bay Channel temporarily, and the vessel was refloated that afternoon. The Coast Guard is investigating.

Louisiana Pipeline Break Update. On May 16, a Texaco pipeline ruptured, discharging approximately 210,000 gallons (previously estimated to be 16,800 gal) of oil into Lake Barre, LA. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Morgan City is the Federal On Scene Coordinator, and a Unified Command has been established. Over 103,000 gallons of oil have been recovered to date. Louisiana state authorities are assessing the impact of the spill on oyster beds in the area. The pipeline has been repaired and is currently pumping oil. Media interest has been high.

Disaster Transportation Management System Exercise: RSPA, in cooperation with FEMA, will conduct an exercise of the new Disaster Transportation Management System (DTMS) concept, including the Movements Coordination Center (MCC), on May 28. The purpose of the program is to improve the acquisition of transportation services in disasters and the tracking and control of the flow of relief resources. All agencies which staff the MCC team will participate, including DOT, DOD, FEMA, GSA, and the U.S. Forest Service.

#### Emergency Relief Requests:

Montana: The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has submitted an Emergency Relief (ER) funding request for damage to federal-aid highways

throughout Montana occurring in late March and April. The cost to repair is estimated at about \$5.4 million with federal ER funds of about \$5.1 million. Most of the 19 sites inspected had problems related to soil saturation or unstable rock slopes. Others were related to ice flow damage. The MDT has been able to keep roadways open to traffic; however, many of the landslide sites are still unstable. Also in Montana, the Forest Service Regional Office has reported damage to its road system in northwest Montana and northern Idaho because of unusually warm temperatures that caused above normal-snowpack to melt at a much faster rate than normal. Repair costs are expected to approach \$2 million. Two bridges were destroyed and the bridge approaches of a third was damaged.

North Dakota: On May 15, an initial allocation of \$10 million in emergency relief (ER) funds was provided to North Dakota for repair of Federal-aid highways damaged by flooding this spring.

Wyoming National Highway System (NHS) Road Closed: U.S 26/89 in the Snake River Canyon, between Alpine Junction and Hoback Junction, has been closed since May 18th because of a landslide and debris flow. Mud and debris continue to flow onto the roadway and an additional 200,000 meters of slide material has the potential to reach the roadway. The Wyoming Department of Transportation continues to assess the condition of the slide and will not open the road until the slide has stabilized.

Yosemite Road Opened on Schedule: In a May 23 ceremony, the 8-mile El Portal Road in Yosemite National Park was opened on schedule after being closed since January 2 because of major flood damage. Since January 5, the Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) has been administering contract repair work for the El Portal Road and other damaged roads and infrastructure in Yosemite National Park. The CFLHD's five-person onsite restoration team has been praised by the Park and the public for their dedication (often working seven-day weeks) over the last five months to ensure that access was available before Memorial Day weekend. In this period, CFLHD completed more than \$4 million in emergency repairs to restore access.

Illinois Enacts Zero Tolerance and Graduated Licensing Measures: The Illinois Legislature approved a zero tolerance bill for youth on May 7 and has sent it to Governor Edgar for his signature. The Governor is expected to sign the measure before July 1, 1997. The legislature also approved a graduated licensing bill on May 20, 1997, and sent it to the Governor. NHTSA Region 5 worked closely with supporters of both bills to ensure passage.

Missouri Strengthens Safety Belt Requirements: On May 16, in the final minutes of the 1997 session, the Missouri Legislature enacted the following changes to the State safety belt law: (1) Safety belts for children--upgrade to cover all passengers in a car or truck age 0-16, in all seating positions; primary enforcement; (2) Safety belts in pickup trucks--new requirement for all drivers and front seat passengers age 18 and older; secondary enforcement; and (3) Open-bed of pickups--new requirements prohibiting the transport of minors; class C misdemeanor. Governor Carnahan is expected to sign the measure, which will likely take

effect on August 28, 1997. Safety advocates were also able to defeat attempts to repeal the States universal motorcycle helmet law. NHTSA Region 7 worked closely with the bills supporters to ensure its passage and defeat the motorcycle helmet repeal effort.

**New Hampshire Child Passenger Safety Law:** A bill to upgrade the state child passenger safety law from under 12 to under 18 passed the House in March, and passed the Senate on May 20, 1997. The bill has been sent to Governor Shaheen for her signature. NHTSA Region 1 took an active role in supporting the bill, including letters to the legislature and testifying at hearings.

**Texas Approves Zero Tolerance Bill:** The Texas Senate passed a zero tolerance bill for youth in February. The bill passed the House on May 21, 1997, with amendments. The bill will now go back to the Senate for final approval. NHTSA Region 6 staff worked closely with the bills Senate sponsor and testified at the committee hearing.

**National Maritime Day Activities:** On May 22 the Merchant Marine Memorial Service was held at 11 am in the Hubert Humphrey Building. Senator John Breaux, Ranking Minority Member Senate Committee on Commerce; Wayne Gilchrest, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation; Deputy Secretary Downey; the Maritime Administrator, industry and labor representatives addressed the ceremonies.

## WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

**SLSDC Performance Based Organization (PBO) Candidacy:** The PBO legislative package was submitted to the Hill on May 5. An outreach program with the Hill, employees, and Seaway customers is in progress. The GAO PBO report was submitted to the Congress on May 15, 1997. The report conclusion raises issues of less Congressional oversight and the budget policy shift from discretionary to mandatory; however, it also states that, "If Congress is interested in testing the PBO concept, SLSDC could be a low-risk pilot because it has a small budget, businesslike operations, and already has some flexibilities that would be available to a PBO."

## UNDIVIDED, PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC EUROPE

**Cutter Helps European, African Maritime Forces.** To support the U. S. National Security Strategy and Commander in Chief, U. S. European Command peacetime engagement plan, the Cutter LEGARE deployed on May 17 for four months of operations and training with navies and coast guards of the Baltic, Mediterranean, and Black Sea regions. The cutter will conduct training in maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, and environmental response. Nations scheduled for visits by LEGARE are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Croatia, Ukraine, Georgia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium and Germany.

## BRIDGE TO ASIA-PACIFIC

**Korea:** Negotiations aimed at concluding an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement took place in Seoul May 20-21. Progress was made on a number of

issues but several issues remain. The most significant of these are third-country code sharing, change of gauge, wet leasing and seventh-freedom rights for cargo flights. A number of doing business issues of U.S. carriers were also discussed during the meeting. Although no dates were set for further discussions, a resumption in the talks is anticipated early this summer.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

**Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Project Electronic Town Meeting:** Between 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. EDT on June 5, RSPA will broadcast its first Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Project Electronic Town Meeting. Through this broadcast, RSPA hopes to reach local safety and environmental officials throughout the nation, particularly in communities likely to be affected by risk management demonstration projects. Viewer call-in questions also will be encouraged. This electronic town meeting will be broadcast by FEMA's Emergency Education Network (EENET), and will be accessible nationwide, via local cable television stations and through standard satellite dish technology.

## NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

**The Secretary Hosts House Transportation and Infrastructure Members:** On May 22, the Secretary hosted an informal breakfast for 8 freshman and other minority Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to discuss the Administration's NEXTEA proposal.

**Department of Transportation Management Issues:** On May 21, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing on the management issues facing the Department. Deputy Secretary Downey testified, along with representatives from the GAO and the IG's office. Senator McCain questioned the Deputy Secretary on the FAA's whistle-blower protections, air traffic control modernization, the possibility of a base closure commission for the Coast Guard and airport revenue diversion. Senators McCain and Burns also noted the Administration's failure to name an FAA Administrator, and Senator McCain suggested that he would offer an amendment to ensure that FAA employees are provided whistle-blower protections.

**NHTSA Oversight and Reauthorization:** On May 22, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection held a hearing on oversight and reauthorization of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Deputy Administrator Recht testified. Other witnesses included representatives from the automobile industry and consumer groups. Questions asked by the Subcommittee focused on the defect investigation process and on international harmonization with respect to motor vehicle safety standards.

**Commercial Ventures in Space:** On May 22, the House Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing on promotion of commercial ventures in space. FAA Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Patti Smith testified. Congressman Dave Weldon voiced concerns on the issue of commercial launch activities over populated areas. The licensing of space ports in 4 states was also discussed.

**U.S./U.K. Bilateral Negotiations:** On June 4, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation has tentatively scheduled a hearing on U.S.-U.K. bilateral negotiations. Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify.

**U.S./U.K./Japan/France Aviation Negotiations:** On June 11 and June 12, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold hearings on U.S. aviation relations with the U.K., Japan and France. Outside witnesses will testify at the June 11 hearing, and Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify on June 12.

**District of Columbia Revitalization Bill Meeting:** On May 22, Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey briefed congressional staff on the transportation title to the Administration's legislative proposal to assist the District of Columbia, entitled the District of Columbia Transportation Revitalization Act of 1997". The Administration is in the process of finalizing the proposal.

**ISTEA Environmental Issues Briefing:** On May 19, the Environmental and Energy Study Institute held a staff briefing on the Hill on environmental issues connected with ISTEA reauthorization. Among those participants were representatives from EPA, Apogee Research, Highway Users, Surface Transportation Policy Project, and House and Senate staff. At the briefing, EPA released a preliminary report, entitled The Emission Reduction Potential of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, and discussed its data analysis and findings.

**FY97 Appropriations Supplemental:** House and Senate conferees continue to consider the differences in their respective versions of the \$8.4 billion FY97 supplemental appropriations bill in an attempt to reach agreement prior to the Memorial Day recess. It appears, however, that the two most contentious issues -- the automatic continuing resolution and the states ability to build roads on federal lands -- continue to delay the resolution of these differences.

**ISTEA Developments:** The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leadership is regrouping following the May 21 defeat of the Shuster-Oberstar amendment to the FY98 budget resolution to increase outlays for transportation by \$12 billion over 5 years. Drafting of the committee bill has been suspended and several other alternatives are being examined, including the possibility of a one-year ISTEA extension with reauthorization put on hold until 1998, an election year. A turnback bill, as well as legislation with a spending level well above the level allowed in the budget resolution are also being considered.

**FY98 Budget Resolution:** On May 21, the House approved the FY98 budget resolution, H.Con.Res.84, by a vote of 333-99. An amendment offered by Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bud Shuster (R-PA) and Ranking Member James Oberstar (D-MN) to increase outlays for transportation by \$12 billion over 5 years was defeated by a 214-216 vote. The increase was to be offset by a .0039 across the board reduction in discretionary spending.

On May 23, the Senate approved its version of the budget resolution by a 78-22 vote. On May 22, an amendment to raise spending for the highway program, offered by Senators John Warner and Max Baucus, was tabled by a vote of 51-49. Earlier in the week, Majority Leader Trent Lott had publicly voiced his opposition to the amendment.

**Amtrak Legislation:** On May 23, the Amtrak Restructuring Act of 1997 was transmitted to the Congress. The legislation, which is intended to serve as Title VIII of NEXTEA, will reauthorize and restructure Amtrak.

#### Secretary's Schedule

May 30

Secretary Slater will announce the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program in Cleveland, OH.

The Deputy Secretary

May 28

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the 4th North American Aviation Tri-Lateral Conference.

May 29

The Deputy Secretary will present medals for heroism to 5 Coast Guard Active and Auxiliary Personnel who rescued 9 people from a sinking boat in April 1997.

May 29-30

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

#### Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

May 26

FTA Administrator Linton will travel to Curitiba, Brazil, to examine Brazilian transportation innovations that may be applied to transportation in America.

May 26-31

FAA Acting Deputy Administrator Belger will speak at the Air Traffic Control Association Symposium and meet with Government officials.

BTS Director Lakshmanan will be participating in meetings with government officials and Los Angeles community leaders in Curitiba, Brazil.

May 27

Admiral Kramek will attend the Law Enforcement Luncheon hosted by the Attorney General.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will represent the Secretary at a Border Technology Initiative Demonstration in Santa Teresea, NM. The event is sponsored by Senator Domenici.

May 28

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Marine Transportation Systems Vulnerability Conference in Leesburg, VA.

VADM Herr will cochair the semi-annual Navy-Coast Guard Board with the Vice Chief of Operations, Admiral Gehman.

RSPA Administrator Sharma will accompany Rep. John Olver during a visit to the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA.

May 29

OSDBU Director Hopewell will be a speaker at the Florida DBE Consultant Seminar in Tampa, FL.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will attend the Change of Command ceremony for the USCGs Ninth District in Cleveland, OH.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will participate in the Amtrak Board of Directors meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will discuss the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program with local civic leaders and the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, OH.

Governmental Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary Horsely will address the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California at Davis in Davis, CA.

May 30

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference, San Diego, CA.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Lieber will participate as a panelist for the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California at Davis NEXTEA Workshop.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will join Secretary Slater and other government officials at the kickoff event for the Garrett A. Morgan Program in Cleveland, OH.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will host the Garrett A. Morgan roll-out program and present the Seaways Pacesetter Award to the port of Cleveland, OH.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will join the Transportation Secretary at the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program Kickoff event in Cleveland, OH.

May 31

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Marine Day Ceremonies at the Maritime Exchange in Philadelphia, PA.

June 2

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will be speak on a panel at ITS America Seventh Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will participate as a panelist at the Bulk Transpo 97 in Portland, OR.

FHWA Executive Director Kane will speak at the AASHTO Information Systems Annual Meeting in MI.

June 2-6

FAA Acting Deputy Administrator Belger will speak at ATC International Technical Conference and meet with Government officials in Prague, Czech Republic.

June 2

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will participate as a panelist at the Bulk Transpo 97 to be held in Portland, OR.

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak on a panel at ITS American Seventh Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

June 3

FTA Administrator Linton will deliver the keynote address at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Building Livable Communities Through Transportation conference at the University of Detroit.

June 4

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee (TIC) meeting in Washington.

FTA Administrator Linton will participate in an American Growing Smarter: A Summit, In Baltimore, MD.

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify before the Senate Aviation Subcommittee. The focus of the hearings is expected to be international aviation relations with the U.K. and Japan.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will attend the Board of Directors meeting of ITS AMERICA and deliver a keynote address to the conferences opening session.

FHWA Executive Director Kane will speak at the ITS America Annual meeting.

June 5

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Change of Command for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL.

June 6

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will attend a ground-breaking meeting of the Indiana Port Commission, at Burns International Harbor, in Portage, IN.

USCG Admiral Kramek will preside at the change of command for the Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL.

June 7

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Safe Communities Best Practices in Orlando, FL.

June 8

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Safe Communities Best Practices Conference in Orlando, FL.

June 8-11

OSDBU Director Hopewell will participate in the 1997 Airport Business Diversity Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

June 9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Sacramento, CA, to address the third and final FRA multi-regional conference.

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the APTA Rail conference.

Governmental Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary Horsely will address the City Commissioners Association of Ohio in Akron, OH.

June 9-10

FHWA Executive Director Kane will speak at the NASTO meeting in Quebec City.

June 9-11

BTS Director Lakshmanan will participate in a conference on Strategic Uses of Information Technologies in the Public Sector at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, MA.

June 9-13

Maritime Administrator Herberger will attend and speak at the NOR-Shipping 97 Maritime Exposition in Oslo, Norway.

June 10

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at Lifesavers 15: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices, in Orlando, FL.

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at Lifesavers 15: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices in Orlando, FL.

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the opening ceremony for the Center for Marine Education in Paducah, KY.

June 11

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at Lifesavers 15: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices in Orlando, FL.

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the opening of the Fourteenth Annual Engineers Meeting in Washington, D.C.

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Ocean Principals Luncheon Meeting at Coast Guard Headquarters.

June 12

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the annual meeting of Trial Attorneys of America in Chicago, IL.

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify before the House Subcommittee on Aviation. The focus being on international aviation relations with France, the U.K. and Japan.

June 12-13

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will participate in Strategic Planning Retreat in Williamsburg, VA.

June 13

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the Transportation Research Boards annual meeting in Woods Hole, MA.

June 13-14

BTS Director Lakshmanan will attend the National Research Council, Transportation Research Board Executive Committee Meeting in Woods Hole, MA.

June 15-18

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will speak at the Paris Air Show in Paris, France.

June 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Minneapolis, MN, to participate in the Small Railroads in the Non Urban Economy -- A Partnership conference.

June 17

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the DOT-sponsored program honoring Alex Haley and the 20th anniversary of Roots.

BTS Director Lakshmanan will speak at the International Road Federation in Ontario, Canada.

June 18

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the National Emergency Number Association Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

June 19

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the Annual Automotive Litigation Conference in Arlington, VA.

June 20

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy change of command.

June 21

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will represent the Department at a pre-ministerial APEC Senior Officials meeting in Victoria, Canada.

June 22-25

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will participate in the APEC meeting in

Victoria, British Columbia.

June 23

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Kruesi will be the keynote speaker at the 68th annual meeting of the Association for Transportation Law, Logistics and Policy in Santa Fe.

June 24-25

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the CINCs Conference at the Pentagon.

June 26

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the retirement ceremony for Rear Admiral Donnell in Yorktown, VA.

Governmental Affairs Assistant Secretary Palmer will attend the Grand Opening Ribboncutting at the Austin/Bergstrom International Airport in Austin, TX.

FTA Administrator Linton will deliver the keynote address at the Project Action Conference in Pittsburgh.

June 27-28

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the change of command for the Commander, First Coast Guard District, and the Navy League National Convention in Boston, MA.

July 6-14

USCG Admiral Kramek will meet with Federal Border Service leaders in Russia.

July 12-19

USCG VADM Herr will attend meetings with the International Maritime Organization in London.

July 22

USCG Admiral Kramek will address the Master Pilot Information Exchange Workshop in Crystal City.

July 23

USCG Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Naval Officers Association meeting in Annapolis, MD.

July 24

USCG Admiral Kramek will address flag and general officers from all services participating in the CAPSTONE program.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Senior Advisory Group/Quality Council meeting with senior Coast Guard flag officers.

July 29

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Congressional Coast Guard Birthday Celebration at the Rayburn Building.

July 30-August 3

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will attend events at the annual Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI.

August 3-6

BTS Director Lakshmanan will participate in the 67th Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

August 28

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will be the guest speaker at the Grand Military Ball for the Chief Petty Officers Association National Convention in Cleveland, OH.

#### Media Inquiries

NBC Dateline interviewed NHTSA Administrator Martinez May 9 for a future segment on drowsy drivers, highlighting technology to deal with the problem. Air date May 23.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez was interviewed May 21 by U.S. News and World Report concerning aggressive driving. Publication May 26.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez was interviewed May 22 for the Sunday [May 25] CBS Evening News on the Buckle Up, America! campaign.

The New York Times plans to write a story on alleged predatory pricing in the airline industry.

USA Today is preparing a story on unruly passengers. The FAA associate administrator for civil aviation security will be interviewed May 28.

Newsweek has interviewed the FAA deputy associate administrator, Office of Research and Acquisition, May 21, concerning how the year 2000 will impact FAAs computer systems, especially air traffic. Possible publication date of May 26.

ABC Prime Time Live is requesting interviews with NTSB, FAA, Boeing, FBI and family members for an hour-long program around the July 17 anniversary date of TWA 800 crash. Sam Donaldson interviewed FAA Director of Aircraft Certification Service May 23.

Dateline NBC is preparing a segment on grade crossing safety from the engineers perspective to air in May. NBC has been backgrounded by FRA Public Affairs and will interview FRA Administrator Molitoris.

The Washington Post is finalizing a major two-part feature on the history and future of air bags. NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Charles Kahane of the Performance Improvement Division were both interviewed. The story is now not expected until late May. The reporter indicates that the Post is waiting for action on the deactivation rule.

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of May 31-June 1, Michael Huerta will be the contact. He can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan ( CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

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SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the week of April 28, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE      April 23, 1997

FROM:            Secretary Slater

SUBJECT:            DOT Weekly Report -- Week of April 28, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

**North Dakota Visit:** On April 22, Secretary Slater joined President Clinton and other Cabinet members in traveling to Grand Forks, ND to tour flood damage. Secretary Slater had joined Vice President Gore in a tour of spring flood damage April 11, and had toured the region with Senator Byron Dorgan April 4.

**Midwest Flood Response Continues:** April 22 marked the 52nd day of Coast Guard response to flooding in the Midwest. In the Upper Midwest, the Coast Guard had evacuated or assisted over 850 people. The focus of the Coast Guards current effort is directed along the Red, St. Croix, Missouri, Minnesota, and Upper Mississippi Rivers. Over 80 Coast Guard active, reserve, auxiliary, and civilian personnel, 2 helicopters, and numerous small craft are supporting local relief efforts. The Coast Guard has also sent pumps and operators from Yorktown, VA, to Grand Forks, ND, to provide temporary fire main support.

**Secretary Slater to Testify on NEXTEA:** On April 24, Secretary Slater will testify before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on the Administrations safety title to its NEXTEA proposal.

**Secretary to attend NTSB Corporate Culture and Transportation Safety Symposium:** On April 24, Secretary Slater will participate in the NTSBs symposium on corporate culture and transportation safety. Internationally recognized experts will discuss how corporate actions and attitudes can affect safety, using NTSB accident investigation reports to illustrate this relationship. The symposium will provide a unique opportunity for members of the transportation community to hear from experts, discuss their own safety concerns, and identify barriers to improving safety and the communication of safety concerns.

Secretary to Attend Presidents Summit for Americas Future: On April 28, Secretary Slater will join the President in Philadelphia for the Presidents Summit for Americas Future. The Departments commitment to the Summit is to establish the Garrett A. Morgan Technology & Transportation Futures Program. The goals of the initiative are to build a bridge between Americas youth and the transportation community, and to coordinate public and private transportation, technology and education resources to better use the nations human capital while meeting the countrys transportation needs. By the end of the year 2000, the Department commits to reaching 1 million students through tutoring, mentoring and education curricula. The Department intends to utilize the 307 schools nationwide with which we have current relationships as well as add to that list. A key component of the initiative will include outreach to the transportation industry to help reach the 1 million students by the end of the year 2000. The Secretary plans to launch the initiative this Spring in Cleveland, OH.

Secretary Slater to Address Aggressive Driving. On April 29, Secretary Slater will participate in an event with Fairfax County officials aimed at combating aggressive driving and promoting traffic safety at the Belle Haven Marina along the George Washington Parkway in Alexandria, VA.

Secretary Slater Commends DCs Primary Seat Belt Law: On April 30, Secretary Slater will host a news conference, along with NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez and D.C. Police Chief Larry Soulsby concerning DCs primary seat belt law which takes effect October 1.

European Conference of Ministers of Transport: Deputy Secretary Mortimer L. Downey is attending the 81st Session of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, April 20-23 in Berlin, Germany. The major transport issues are European-Wide Transport Policy, Transport and Infrastructure Development, Crime in Transport, and Vulnerable Transport Users.

Pipeline Rupture in MO: On April 20, a high pressure 26-inch Panhandle. A house, located over 1/2 mile away, was evacuated. The line was isolated and the fire went out shortly thereafter. On April 20, an OPS-Central Region inspector arrived on site. Visual inspection of the failed pipe did not reveal any obvious indication of cause. The pipeline is being sent to Houston for metallurgical examination.

Train Derailment in OH: On April 21, a Conrail train consisting of 2 locomotives, 144 cars derailed 31 cars. There were no injuries. 9 hazardous material residue cars, 8 containing sodium hydroxide and 1 chlorine, were involved in the derailment. 2 cars, 1 sodium hydroxide residue tank car and 1 sodium carbonate residue covered hopper car, landed in the Sandusky wetlands. There was no reported release into the environment; although a small fish kill has been reported. The evacuation was lifted on April 22. Federal and state officials responded to the accident.

Earth Day: On April 22, Chief of Staff Designate Michael Huerta was joined by Virginia State Senator Charles Waddell, Delegate George Lovelace and Kate Hanley, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Commissioners as they

planted a tree at I-66 and the new Fairfax County Parkway. The Earth Day event was hosted by America's Treeways and Fairfax County ReLeaf. Mr. Huerta represented Secretary Slater who traveled with the President to North Dakota. In the main DOT building in Washington environmental exhibits were displayed and all the field offices were encouraged to commemorate Earth Day.

**Intermodal Northeast Tour Amplifying NEXTEA:** On April 17-21, Secretary Slater observed highway, rail, transit, air and port facilities in 10 northeast states, and testified April 21 at a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee field hearing on NEXTEA in RI. In addition, the Secretary awarded the following grants: \$6 million for renovation of the Jackie Gleason Bus Depot, Brooklyn, New York; \$35 million for continued construction of a tunnel to connect the 63rd Street and Queens Boulevard subway lines, also in New York; \$6.3 million for construction of the Frankford Transportation Center, a multi modal terminal at the northern terminus of the Market-Frankford subway-elevated rail line in Philadelphia; and \$104.8 million for construction of the Secaucus Transfer Station in Newark, NJ. In addition, Secretary Slater participated in a groundbreaking ceremony initiating investment of \$104 million in federal-aid highway funds for improvements along I-95 in Bridgeport, CT. A schedule of events is attached to this report. The Secretary also participated in an Americorps/Young Heroes event in Boston to mark National Service Week.

**Secretary Discusses NEXTEA at Senate Field Hearing in RI:** On April 21, as part of the 10 state Northeast tour, Secretary Slater testified on NEXTEA in Warwick, RI at a field hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Secretary Slater said that if Congress funds NEXTEA at the levels proposed, it would mean nearly \$710 million for RI over the next 6 years in formula-based funding alone, and more than \$36.8 billion in the 11 states from MD to ME. The hearing is the last of 5 field hearings on ISTEA reauthorization held by the Committee.

**Chinese Negotiations:** FAA officials met with the Chinese in Beijing last week on a renewal/continuation of civil/military air traffic control cooperation between the U.S. and China. FAA presented the U.S. position; the Chinese replied that they were generally in favor of continued cooperation. They will evaluate the proposal and respond to us within three months.

**Korean Flights:** FAA published a final rule that prohibits certain flight operations within the airspace controlled by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by any U.S. air carrier or commercial operator, by any person exercising the privileges of an airman certificate issued by the FAA, except such persons operating U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier, or by an operator using an aircraft registered in the U.S. unless the operator of such aircraft is a foreign air carrier. The rule was issued because there could be a potential threat to civil aircraft in certain areas of Korean airspace.

**Pegasus Launch:** On April 21, a Pegasus air-launched vehicle, with a drop point southeast of the Canary Islands over the Atlantic, was launched. This is the first FAA licensed launch to take place from a foreign

country. This Pegasus carried a Spanish scientific satellite, MINIS AT 1, and a second payload owned by the U.S. company, Celestas, Inc., consisting of cremated remains. This launching received widespread press coverage.

**Airworthiness Directives for 777:** The FAA plans to issue several airworthiness directives regarding the 777 over the next week. A separate memo on the specifics will follow. The 777, a new plane, has been the subject of media and congressional interest. The 777 certification process is also the subject of a forthcoming IG report.

**Additional ValuJet Service:** On May 15, ValuJet is planning to add Charlotte, NC, and Flint, MI, to their service. FAA is expecting ValuJet's audits on both cities by the end of April and FAA will do station and facility inspections the first week of May. FAA inspectors will be on the first flights for each of these destinations.

**In-flight Aircraft Icing Plan:** FAA will release this week the FAA In-flight Aircraft Icing Plan, the result of our 1996 International Aircraft Icing Conference. The plan describes activities which will improve the safety of operations in icing conditions currently defined by the Federal Aviation Regulations. The plan is one of many international efforts to improve the safety of aircraft operated in icing conditions.

**New Computerized Monitoring and Control System:** FAA will sign a \$100 million contract this week to provide a new computerized monitoring and control system (National Airspace System Infrastructure Management System--NIBS) that will increase safety by helping to boost the reliability of FAA's 30,000-plus facilities and pieces of equipment across the U.S. NIBS is the centralized management system for FAA equipment and facilities that will help FAA technicians keep equipment up and running.

**Fayetteville/Springdale/Rogers, AR:** On April 28-29, the GAO will visit the Southwest Region Airports Division to conduct a review of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport project. They are interested in Northwest Arkansas project justification documents, all Northwest Arkansas grants issued and their documentation, all Northwest Arkansas Letter of Intent documentation, Fayetteville (Drake Field) and Northwest Arkansas master plans, forecasts, etc., and Fayetteville LDA approach.

**K-9 Explosives Detection Program:** As of April 18, 16 of 19 Category X Airports have signed Cooperative Agreements for the new explosives detection canine program. Three (John F. Kennedy International Airport, Detroit Metro Airport, and Baltimore Washington International Airport) are working with FAA in setting up their new program but are operating under Letters of Intent pending signature of the formal agreement. The annual recertification of teams at 35 airports under the old K-9 program is proceeding well with 7 of 35 evaluations completed. All teams presented for evaluation thus far have been recertified.

**Mexico City:** On March 17-28, a team of FAA security specialists assessed security at Aeropuerto Internacional Benito Juarez, Mexico City. A number of operational deficiencies in passenger screening and access control were brought to the attention of Mexican aviation officials who quickly rectified them. Benito Juarez International Airport will be assessed

again in March, 1998.

**Foreign Airport Assessments and Air Carrier Inspections:** FAA is conducting airport assessments in Cancun and Huatulco, Mexico, through April 25. We anticipate no significant problems. We are also conducting air carrier inspections in Narita, Japan, and Cancun, Cozumel, and Huatulco, Mexico. Again, no significant problems are anticipated.

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:** On April 18-25, FAA security personnel will conduct a survey of the international airport in Kuala Lumpur. Prior to the startup of U.S. air carrier service between the United States and Kuala Lumpur, the airport will undergo a complete security assessment.

**Aviation Insurance:** On April 14, FAA issued a NPRM on Aviation Insurance. The NPRM was published in the Federal Register on April 17, public comments close June 2. This NPRM proposes to provide for the issuance of insurance in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives, and for the issuance of aviation insurance for certain ground support activities essential to these flights. Also, the amendments would define the activation of insurance coverage under the Aviation Insurance Program, revise the process for amending insurance policies, increase binders for nonpremium insurance coverage, and reflect the expanded Aviation Insurance Program statutory authority. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on the aviation insurance program on May 1.

**1996 Airline Financial Results:** For 1996, the combined major airlines, as a group, reported the highest operating profit \$6 billion and net income \$2.8 billion in airline history. The 10 major passenger airlines, as a group, reported a combined operating profit of \$5.3 billion and a net income of \$2.4 billion during 1996. The 2 major all-cargo airlines, as a group, reported a combined operating profit of \$723 million and a net income of \$349 million during 1996. Except for TWA, every major airline reported an operating and net profit for the 1996. The 10 major passenger airlines, as a group, reported an operating profit of \$570 million and a net income of \$125 million during the fourth quarter 1996.

**France:** Formal negotiations with France are being held in Washington, April 22-24. The 2 sides are seeking a new bilateral aviation agreement that would establish a phased-in liberalization period, essentially an open transatlantic regime for services, between the 2 countries.

**Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 -- Accident Response Plans:** Under the Act each certified air carrier is required to file with the Department and NTSB a plan to address the needs of families of passengers and other victims involved in airline disasters. The NTSB has informally agreed to review the airlines' plans, which under the Act were due to be filed by April 9. As of April 16, 127 of the approximately 165 certified air carriers had filed their plans. The Department intends to contact any carrier that has failed to file its plan and will continue to coordinate with the NTSB on matters involving the plans.

White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security - Passenger

Profiling: The General Counsel convened a meeting with FAA and DOJ officials, including representatives of the FBI, to discuss civil liberties concerns with regard to passenger profiling per a recommendation of the White House Commission. Future meetings will take place to determine the appropriate review of the FAA system.

Changes to Overflights in the Grand Canyon: The FAA, in coordination with NPS and DOI, is planning to propose changes to the recently adopted rule on overflights of Grand Canyon National Park by air tour operators. The rule works to restore the natural quiet of the Grand Canyon. There are 2 main changes. First, on the west end of the park, the "National Canyon Corridor" route would be moved and opened to all tour operators. FAA and NPS believe that, in the absence of this change, there will be an unacceptable concentration of traffic at another point of the park, which raises some safety concerns. Moving the route will also help protect a number of important sites holy to the Havasupai tribe. The second change will create an "incentive" route in the east end of the park. This route would be open only to operators of the most noise-efficient aircraft. The hope is that this will encourage operators to switch to quiet technology more quickly than would be required by the recently adopted rule.

Airport Revenue Diversion - Los Angeles: In late September, 1996, the City of Los Angeles (City), owner and operator of Los Angeles International, Ontario, Palmdale and Van Nuys airports, transferred \$31 million from its Airports Department to the City's general fund for decades-old claimed unreimbursed expenses. In March, the FAA issued a Director's Determination, finding that \$30.3 million was illegally transferred and suspended AIP grant payments and eligibility for new FAA grants for 180 days or until further notice. On April 9, the City requested a hearing on the Determination, submitted documentation to justify about \$20 million of the transfer, and indicated that it would document the remainder of the transfer by the date of the hearing. On April 15, the FAA issued a Hearing Order, which Counsel reviewed, assigning the matter to a hearing officer and directing him to issue an initial decision by July 7.

Combined Counterdrug Operation with Haitian Ship rider: From April 18-21, Coast Guard cutters SENECA and BEAR conducted a combined counterdrug operation inside the territorial waters of Haiti. A Haitian Ship rider is deployed on the Cutter SENECA.

#### Secretary's Intermodal Tour from DC to Maine Amplifying NEXTEA

Secretary Rodney E. Slater completed a 5-Day, 10-State Multi-modal Tour through the Northeastern Corridor. From April 17 through April 21, the Secretary traveled through the States of Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. He traveled via AMTRAK from D.C. to New York, by commercial aircraft and again via AMTRAK for a midnight ride from Boston to New Haven. During this intensive tour the Secretary met with approximately 1,200 people including 3 Governors, 7 Senators, 12 Members of the House and 7 Mayors. He also met with every State Secretary of Transportation. Throughout his Northeastern Tour the Secretary amplified the message of the Administrations proposed National Economic Crossroads

Transportation Efficiency Act (NEXTEA). The tour included the recognition of Earth Day and National Service Week. Safety was also highlighted throughout the tour.

The Secretary received excellent broadcast and print coverage throughout the trip as well as appearing live on the David Brudnoy Show in Boston, the Judy Jarvis Show which is syndicated and the Ted Efav Show in New Jersey.

April 17

District of Columbia: The Secretary began his 5-day multi modal tour with the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) event at the National Press Club. The Secretary, accompanied by NHTSA Administrator Martinez, kicked off National Drive Safely at Work Week which is April 20 - 26. He boarded AMTRAK and was given a demonstration by RSPA Administrator Sharma and other officials on Operation Respond - Emergency Response.

Maryland: The Secretary was greeted by Mayor Schموke in Baltimore where he visited the Baltimore Civil War Museum which features history of African Americans use of underground railroads. On board AMTRAK, the Secretary met with Delaware Governor Tom Carper and State DOT Secretary Anne Canby.

Delaware: Secretary Slater visited Wilmington, DE and participated in an outreach session with 40 city, county and State representatives and transportation officials. He also toured the proposed Riverfront Economic Development project.

Pennsylvania: Secretary Slater traveled to Philadelphia on AMTRAK and celebrated Earth Day by leading a discussion with local bicyclists. He was the keynote speaker at PENJERDEL, a regional public/private organization with membership that includes transportation, business and community leaders. Mayor Rendell joined the Secretary at the dinner. In his remarks, the Secretary touted President Clintons transportation reauthorization bill, NEXTEA as well as the upcoming President's Summit for America's Future. FTA Administrator Linton accompanied the Secretary during his entire visit to Philadelphia.

April 18

Pennsylvania: The Secretary toured Old North Philadelphia Train Station, an economic redevelopment project. The tour was given by Rep. Foglietta and local transportation officials.

Secretary Slater, accompanied by Rep. Borski, made a FTA Grant announcement of \$6.3 million for the Frankford Elevated Reconstruction Project. This is an example of a major reconstruction effort being performed on a 75 year old rail line while keeping the line running. After the check presentation, the Secretary took an inaugural ride on one of the new trains.

While traveling on AMTRAK enroute to New York City, the Secretary met with Rep. Rothman to discuss local New Jersey transportation issues of concern to the Congressman.

New York: Secretary Slater made a FTA Grant announcement of \$6 million to NYMTA in Brooklyn at the Jackie Gleason Bus Depot. The grant allows the depot to make modifications that will allow for the operation of buses fueled by compressed natural gas. Rep. Towns joined the Secretary for the event.

Secretary Slater then traveled to Queens and made a FTA Grant announcement of \$35 million, the final increment in federal funding to MTA for the connection between the 63rd St. tunnel and the Queens Blvd subway line. Reps. Maloney and Manton joined the Secretary.

The Secretary, accompanied by Acting FHWA Administrator Gravey, met with Northeast state DOT Secretaries for an in-depth discussion of NEXTEA.

April 19

New Hampshire: The Secretary attended a breakfast meeting hosted by Governor Jeanne Shaheen to discuss NEXTEA and New Hampshire's transportation priorities. Representatives Sununu and Bass participated in the meeting.

Massachusetts: Secretary Slater amplified National Service Week by speaking to the Young Heroes group of the Boston AmeriCorps program. Additionally, he rode the T with the corps and performed community service at a used clothing store that raises money for people with AIDS.

Maine: The Secretary traveled to Auburn for a briefing by local officials on the Auburn Intermodal Freight Transfer Facility. Senators Snowe and Collins, as well as Reps. Baldacci and Allen attended this event. In Portland, the Secretary amplified Welfare to Work initiatives by holding a roundtable discussion with several women who are former welfare recipients and are now employed in transportation trades. Both Senators and Rep. Tom Allen attended. He then toured the WILLOW, a high-tech U.S. Coast Guard Cutter based in Portland and then boarded the USCG Cutter SHACKLE for a tour of the Harbor. The tour included a look at the Million Dollar bridge which had been hit by a tanker in 1996 and a discussion of the Coast Guard efforts during the clean up of the recent oil spill in the Harbor. The Secretary had a private meeting with Governor King. Additionally, Rep. Allen hosted a reception and discussion of NEXTEA and transportation issues for representatives of the Maine transportation community. Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey accompanied the Secretary during all of the events in Maine.

April 20

Connecticut: Before attending Sunday services at the Bethel AME Church, the Secretary received a briefing from New Haven Mayor DeStefano on the transportation concerns in New Haven. The Secretary was joined in Bridgeport by Senator Lieberman for a groundbreaking event on I-95 which is being reconstructed at a cost of \$410 to improve mobility and safety.

April 21

Rhode Island: Secretary Slater met with Senator Chafee and Gov. Almond in

Providence for Breakfast. He then testified before a field hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee chaired by Senator Chafee. Also in attendance during the hearing were Senator Reed and Rep. Weygand. The Secretary received a briefing on T.F. Green Airport from airport officials.

New Jersey: In Newark the Secretary made a FTA Grant announcement of \$104.8 million to the New Jersey Transit Corp. These funds will be used for the Seacaucus Transfer element of the NJ Urban Core Project, which reduces commuting times, encourages transit use and expands capacity for rail and light rail mass transit. Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli, Reps. Menendez, Payne, and Mayor James attended. Accompanied by Senator Lautenberg, Rep. Menendez and MARAD Administrator Herberger, the Secretary participated in a discussion of the issues surrounding the New York/New Jersey Port. The roundtable was hosted by Sealand and included 40 companies and organizations involved in the Port.

## WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

### Welfare to Work

Job Training for Welfare Recipients: Through DOT's 5-year relationship with the National Rural Development Partnership, located in USDA's Rural Development mission area, contacts within MT DOT were provided so that the MT DOT, MT Human Resources Department, and MT Contractors Association could coordinate efforts to train welfare recipients for transportation-related construction jobs. This is an example of how the Department has a positive impact on coordination and collaboration at the state level through involvement with an innovative partnership of Federal, state, and local government agencies as well as the business and non-profit communities.

### Reinvention

The Department has crafted a reinvention experiment for streamlining certain aspects of the 8(a) contracting process. SBA has agreed with the streamlining concept and we have jointly developed and signed a MOU on January 23 to begin the pilot reinvention experiment. This pilot reinvention experiment is being conducted with FHWA, USCG, and TASC. DOT and SBA participants have jointly prepared an implementation plan for the MOU, which became effective on March 1. DOT agencies have already awarded several 8(a) procurement opportunities under the pilot reinvention experiment.

### Environmental Safety

Puget Sound Marine Safety. On April 21-23, an expert panel assisting Volpe Center in study on accident prevention and environmental impact and response in Puget Sound met in Seattle. Panelists and the public participated in the working group of their choice. The study implements part of an Administration commitment to review and upgrade marine safety in the region.

**Binational Commission Meeting Preparations:** The Department is working closely with the DOS to prepare for the annual meeting between U.S. and Mexican cabinet officials to discuss bilateral transport issues. This meeting is currently scheduled for May 5-6. This annual meeting provides the two countries with an opportunity to build strong bilateral ties, recognize accomplishments over the last year and plan for new joint initiatives for the coming year. Secretary Slater is scheduled to represent the Department at this meeting to discuss on-going cooperative initiatives between the U.S. and Mexico, resolve outstanding issues, and to discuss possible new bilateral areas of cooperation over the coming year. This meeting precedes a meeting between President Clinton and Mexican President Zedillo.

**Antarctic Treaty Final Rule Published:** On April 14, the Coast Guard published a Direct Final Rule on the Antarctic Treaty Environmental Protection Protocol, 1997. This rule established regulations to implement the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996. These regulations guide U.S. owned and/or operated vessels to properly prepare for voyages in the Antarctic. This rule will harmonize U.S. regulations with international standards, and improve preparedness to respond to a spill.

**Coast Guard Units and People Receive Presidential Recognition:** The Coast Guard drew formal recognition for its support of national environmental objectives. An awards ceremony is scheduled for May 5 at the White House to commend Coast Guard and other federal recipients. Awards will be made to the following Coast Guard units and people:

**Closing the Circle (CTC) Award:** The Coast Guard won 2 of the 21 awards for the Federal Government in this category--Recipients are the Coast Guard Yard, Baltimore, MD, for its design of a hazardous material management system, and Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, which won its CTC Award for promoting a cultural change in reducing waste, increasing recycling, and protecting natural resources.

**Environmental Challenge Award:** Senior Chief Petty Officer Richard Peri of the Coast Guard Headquarters Office of Aeronautical Engineering was honored by the White House as one of 9 selectees for the Environmental Challenge Award. Senior Chief Peri was recognized for outstanding leadership implementing pollution prevention provisions of the 1993 Executive Order covering federal compliance with right-to-know laws and pollution prevention.

#### Bridge to Asia-Pacific

**DOT-DOE Presentation to Korean Gas Safety Corporation :** RSPA and DOE will deliver a joint presentation to 16 delegates from the Korean Gas Safety Corporation on April 25. The Korean Gas Safety Corporation is an inspection authority affiliated with the Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy which carries out gas-related services such as inspections, training and public relations, and develops and enforces gas safety regulations. The delegates are in the United States visiting various federal agencies and trade associations to learn more about American technical standard development, enforcement and accident response activities.

## NEXTEA OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Connecticut ISTEA Reauthorization Forum: On April 14, both U.S. Senators conducted an ISTEA reauthorization forum at the CT State Capitol. The Governor was the featured panelist. Other panels included local government, 2 mayors and a Metropolitan Planning Organization represented, transportation construction industry, CT Construction Industries Association, and environmental concerns CT Fund for the Environment, a transit advocacy group, and a transportation enhancement advocate. Without exception, all spoke in favor of reauthorizing a bill that looked very much like ISTEA, with minor improvements to specific items.

## NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

FAA Research and Commercial Space Authorizations: On April 16, the House Science Committee approved by voice vote H.R. 1271, a 3 year authorization of FAA research programs. The authorization includes a FY98 funding level that is \$17 million over the Presidents budget request for FY98. The Committee also approved H.R. 1275, a 2 year authorization of commercial space programs. House floor action is expected later this week.

FY97 Appropriations Supplemental: On April 24, the House Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up a supplemental appropriations measure to provide funding for disaster relief in several states. Included in the request is \$276 million for the FHWA to revamp highways damaged during winter floods. The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up its version of the measure by early next week.

Nominations: On May 1, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee is expected to mark up the nominations of Ken Mead for Inspector General and T.R. Lakshmanan for Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

### ISTEA Reauthorization:

On April 23, the House Science Subcommittee on Technology held a hearing on research and development initiatives in Title VI of ISTEA. The Department was not scheduled to testify.

On April 24, Secretary Slater will testify before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on the Administrations safety title to its NEXTEA proposal.

On May 1, Secretary Slater will testify before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the Administrations safety title to its NASTY proposal.

British Airways and American Airlines Antitrust Alliance: On April 22, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights and Competition held a hearing on the British Airways and American Airlines Antitrust Alliance. The Department will not be invited to testify.

Dedicated Funding Source for Amtrak: On April 23, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on the need for a dedicated funding source for Amtrak. The Department will not be invited to testify.

Airbags and Child Restraints: On April 29, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee has tentatively scheduled a hearing on airbags and child restraints. NHTSA Administrator Martinez will testify.

On April 30, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance will hold a hearing on airbags and child restraints. NHTSA Administrator Martinez will testify.

Aviation Insurance Program: On May 1, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on reauthorization of the aviation war risk insurance program. FAA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Policy and Planning and International Aviation, Louise Maillet, will testify.

U.S./Japan Bilateral Negotiations: On May 8, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on U.S./Japan bilateral negotiations. The Department will be invited to testify.

On May 21, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation has tentatively scheduled a hearing on U.S./Japan bilateral negotiations. The Department will be invited to testify.

Barriers to Entry in the Aviation Industry: On May 13, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on Barriers to Entry in the Aviation Industry. The Department will be invited to testify.

#### Secretary's Schedule

April 24-25

Secretary Slater and his staff will attend a Retreat in Warrenton, VA.

April 27

Secretary Slater will participate in the NAACP Awards Dinner in Detroit, MI.

April 28-29

Secretary Slater will participate in the Presidents Volunteer Summit for the Future in Philadelphia, PA.

April 30

Secretary Slater will participate in a Primary Seat Belt event in Washington, DC.

Deputy Secretary

May 5

The Deputy Secretary will deliver opening remarks at the High Speed Rail Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

May 8

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the WTS 20th Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

May 29-30

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

#### Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

April 24-25

DOT Retreat in Warrenton, VA, to discuss the Departments Strategic Plan.

April 25

RSPA Administrator Sharma will deliver remarks at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, DC.

April 27-29

FRA Administrator Jolene Molitoris will meet with the Oregon State Governor, Oregon State DOT Officials, and FRA Region Eight employees in Vancouver, WA.

April 28

FTA Administrator will give a luncheon address on NEXTEA at the Washington DC chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO).

April 28

BTS Director Lakshmanan will speak on Social Economic Change and Sustainable Transportation at the Public Affairs Lecture Series on Pricing Transportation Right-William Vickerys Legacy at Columbia University in NY.

April 28-29

FRA Administrator Molitoris will visit FRA employees in Region 8 in Vancouver, WA.

FHWA Acting Administrator Garvey will attend the AAHSTO annual CEO meeting in Des Moines.

April 29

Admiral Kramek will meet with Commissioner David Watters, head of the Canadian Coast Guard.

The RSPA Deputy Administrator will deliver remarks at the National Association of Pipeline State Representatives meeting in Williamsburg, VA.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at a conference in Tampa, FL, on fatigue in freight transportation.

Acting FAA Administrator Valentine will speak with USAF officials on a number of issues at Langley AFB, VA.

Acting FAA Administrator Valentine will address USAF officials on a number of issues at Langley AFB, VA.

April 29 - May 3

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage, AL, to meet with Alaskan Railroad employees and labor representatives.

April 30

Admiral Kramek will attend the Congressional Bipartisan Drug Policy Working Group Breakfast meeting.

Admiral Kramek will attend the National Propeller Club salute to Congress dinner in Washington.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage and Seward, AK, to participate in a special train trip hosted by the Railroad Operating Rules Association of North America.

FTA Administrator Linton will give the keynote address at the African-American Mobility Issues Symposium in Tampa, FL.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will be a guest speaker at the Primary Seatbelt Enforcement Law for the District of Columbia Press Conference in Washington, DC.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma will deliver remarks at the City College of New York in NYC.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma will deliver remarks at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ.

May 1

Admiral Kramek will cochair the J3/USIC Quarterly Planning Conference at the Pentagon.

Admiral Kramek will attend The Retired Officers Association reception and awards ceremony on Capital Hill.

FTA Administrator Linton will be the luncheon speaker at the Caucus on Rider Friendly Transit for the 21st Century, sponsored by Transportation Research Board and Florida DOT in Orlando, FL.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma to delivery keynote address at the 12th Annual Meeting of the U.S./Canada Emergency Planning Committee for Civil Transportation in Washington, D.C.

FHWA Acting Administrator Garvey will give the opening keynote address at Governing magazines Infrastructure 97 conference in Denver, CO.

May 1-2

FRA Deputy Administrator Donald Itzkoff will be the keynote speaker for the Academy of Rail Labor Attorneys convention in Dana Point, CA.

May 1-3

Chief of Staff Designate, Michael Huerta, will participate in the National Federation of Municipal Analysts annual conference in Coronado, CA.

May 2

Admiral Kramek will attend the dedication of the FDR Memorial.

May 3

Admiral Kramek will escort Senator Inouye to the launching of the new Coast Guard Cutter KUKUI in Marinette, WI. Mrs. Herr, wife of vice Admiral Herr, will serve as the ships sponsor.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Kelley S. Coyner to deliver remarks at the annual Hazardous Materials Advisory Council meeting in Baltimore, MD.

May 4

Admiral Kramek will attend the Dept. of Defense-sponsored Joint Civilian Orientation Course Welcome Reception and Dinner in Washington.

May 5

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Las Vegas, NV, to be the keynote speaker at the High-Speed Ground Transportation Associations 1997 International Convention and Exposition.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the SAE International Annual Government/Industry meeting in Washington, D.C.

Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Steve Palmer, will address the LA Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

Admiral Kramek will address the JCOC conference at the Pentagon.

May 6

Admiral Kramek will address the Baltimore Coast Guard Officers Association Luncheon.

OSDBU Director Luz Hopewell will attend the Air Force 50th Anniversary Salute to Small Business in Herndon, VA.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will participate in the Acadian Ambulance Company Air Rescue Demonstration and Training Process, Lafayette, LA.

May 7

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the American Society of Testing and Materials Symposium on Safety of Commercial Vessel Operations on Rivers in St. Louis, MO.

May 8

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Baltimore, MD, to be the keynote speaker at the 1997 Womens Transportation Seminar National Conference.

Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Steve Palmer, will speak at the request of Rep. Marty Meehan, who is hosting the 5th Distric

Legislative Issues Forum in Washington, DC.

May 8-9

OSDBU Director Hopewell will attend the 1997 Womens Transportation Seminar in Baltimore, MD.

May 8-10

Admiral Kramek will attend functions with the Coast Guard Foundation in San Francisco.

May 9

Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs, Louise Stoll, will participate on a panel for the WTS National Conference, Baltimore, MD.

May 9-10

Admiral Kramek will attend events in San Francisco with the CG Foundation.

May 12

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Atlanta, GA, to address the second of three FRA multi-regional conferences.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the MADD Youth Summit on Underage Drinking in Chevy Chase, MD.

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the Annual Meeting of the United Seamens Service in NY.

May 12-14

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will participate in the Russian-American Aviation Conference in Annapolis, MD.

May 13

Admiral Kramek will attend the CG Atlantic Area change of command in Portsmouth, VA.

May 14

Admiral Kramek will host an event with Mr. Robert Bell, Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, at CG Headquarters.

May 15

Admiral Kramek will attend a meeting with the Webb Institute in NYC.

May 19

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the American Ambulance Association Stars of Life Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.

May 20

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Japan Transportation Research Centers Conference on Advanced Vehicle Technology in Washington, D.C.

May 21

Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy graduation in New London, CT.

May 22

Admiral Kramek will host newly-selected flag and general officers participating in the CAPSTONE orientation program.

MARAD Deputy Administrator for Inland Waterways and Great Lakes will speak at the Propeller Club Maritime Day Luncheon in St. Petersburg, FL.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will address the National Day Ceremony in Washington, DC.

May 23

Admiral Kramek will attend the CG Pacific Area change of command.

May 30

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference, San Diego, CA.

June 2

NHTSA Martinez will participate in a meeting with the Crash Injury Research Engineering Network in Ann Arbor, MI.

June 4

Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee (TIC) meeting in Washington.

June 5

Admiral Kramek will attend the Change of Command for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL.

June 7

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Safe Communities Best Practices in Orlando, FL.

June 9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Sacramento, CA, to address the third and final FRA multi-regional conference.

June 10

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at Lifesavers 14: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices, in Orlando, FL.

June 12

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Philip Recht will speak at the annual meeting of Trial Attorneys of America in Chicago, IL.

June 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Minneapolis, MN, to participate in the Small Railroads in the Non Urban Economy -- A Partnership conference.

June 17

Admiral Kramek will attend the DOT-sponsored program honoring Alex Haley

and the 20th anniversary of Roots.

June 18

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the National Emergency Number Association Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

June 20

Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy change of command.

June 26

Admiral Kramek will attend the retirement ceremony for Rear Admiral Donnell in Yorktown, VA.

June 27-28

Admiral Kramek will attend the change of command for the Commander, First Coast Guard District, and the Navy League National Convention in Boston, MA.

July 6-14

Admiral Kramek will meet with Federal Border Service leaders in Russia.

July 23

Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Naval Officers Association meeting in Annapolis, MD.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

## Media Inquiries

The Associated Press (Nick Jesdanen in Washington) called about federal gasoline tax rates, which HPA provided. (April 16)

St. Louis Post Dispatch submitted questions pertaining to Motor Carriers.

New York News One requested information pertaining to a New York Helicopter Crash.

The Washington Post requested copies of two OIG reports.

Cumberland Times News requested information on Airport Security.

The Washington Post is working a major two-part feature on the history and future of air bags. NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Charles Kahane of the Performance Improvement Division were both interviewed. The article had been expected to run April 13 and 14, but is being reviewed by Post legal staff.

Dateline NBC is preparing a three-part piece on the ValuJet anniversary, to begin airing May 11. They have requested FAA response to NTSB

recommendations concerning hazardous materials and have interviewed the FAA assistant administrator for Regulation and Certification.

Dateline NBC is preparing a segment on grade crossing safety from the engineers perspective to air in May. NBC has been backgrounded by FRA Public Affairs and will interview FRA Administrator Molitoris.

The Arkansas Democrat Gazette interviewed DOT Deputy Chief of Staff Jerry Malone on April 22 for a weekend feature.

OST Policy is preparing a commentary for Secretary Slater for Washington Times Insight publication, responding to the question, Should highway user fees be used exclusively for highways? William Fay, president of the American Highway Users Alliance will provide opposing commentary. Publication next week.

Lloyds List/Journal of Commerce: Reporters from these two periodicals called regarding Operation Safety Net, the Coast Guards new effort to regulate smaller foreign merchant ships in U.S. waters>

The Boston Globe: A briefing was given to a reporter on a cruise ship safety and the role of the Coast Guard.

#### FOIA REQUESTS

Correspondence between FAA and Representative Maurice Hinchey between 1992-1997 concerning a \$1.5 million federal grant awarded for Kingston-Ulster Airport in NY -- Ottaway News Service, Washington, DC

NASIP and/or NATI programs of ratings for Part 121/135 airlines for the past 5 years -- Consumer Digest Magazine, Chicago, IL

Revocation and reinstatement of the air carrier certificate and a Minimum Equipment List (MEL) for Prompt Air Inc. -- KSTP-TV News, St. Paul, MN

Transcript and audio tape involving the flight of Prompt Air Cessna, N7123J, at General Mitchell International Airport, Milwaukee, WI on February 20, 1997 -- WLKY-TV, Louisville, KY

Meigs Field Feasibility Study --City News Bureau of Chicago

Tower tapes, weather reports involving a helicopter N370WM accident on April 8, 1997 -- Palm Beach Post

Correspondence since January 1, 1996 from Sun Jet International to the Atlanta Flight Standards Office and correspondence from the Atlanta Flights Standards Office to Sun Jet -- St. Petersburg Times

Correspondence to FAA written by 27 specified Members of Congress since 1978 -- The Center for Public Integrity, Washington, DC

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 26-27, Michael Huerta will be

the contact. He can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Judi Gold ( CN=Judi Gold/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:29:42.00

SUBJECT: from Jackie Lowey

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM TO: STEVE SILVERMAN  
Cabinet Affairs

FROM: Jacqueline Lowey  
Deputy Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Major Announcements from DOT

DATE: March 4, 1997

Following are possible announcements from the Department which could have White House involvement. Please contact me if you have any questions.

#### Possible Events

One Level of Safety Rule                      Possible Dates: March 20, 21,22

Background: On December 20, 1995, the FAA published a series of rulemaking actions which required commuter air carriers who conduct scheduled passenger service in airplanes with 10 or more passenger seats to comply with the same regulations as the major air carriers. Commuter carriers are required to recertify to these higher standards by March 20, 1997. Most of the commuters are expected to meet this compliance date; however, some smaller carriers have identified issues which may delay all or part of their compliance. The FAA will continue to work with the industry to resolve specific issues and meet the "one level of safety" initiative.

We could plan an event highlighting the one level of safety full implementation.

The Presidential Initiative for Increasing Seat Belt Use Nationwide.  
Possible Dates ; Week of March 17

Background: On January 23, 1997 the President directed the Department to report to him within 90 days to increase national safety belt use and to reduce child occupant fatalities. This report should be delivered to the White House by March 14.

The delivery of the report provides an opportunity to amplify the

Presidents safety message.

The Presidential Initiative on Drugs, Driving and Youth.  
Possible Dates: At WH convenience

Background: This initiative was instituted to reduce the incidents of drug use by teens and driving under the influence of drugs, in general. ONDCP and DOT together developed this report to reach the goals stressed by the President. This report was sent to the President on February 23.

The Department has already asked for Presidential participation and we await a response so that we can plan on a public roll-out of this report.

ISTEA Reauthorization Bill Possible Dates: Week of March 10

Background: Saturday, March 8 is the Departments announced deadline for submission of the reauthorization of ISTEA legislation to Congress. DOT, working with other agencies and the White House, has developed a comprehensive proposal that protects the high levels of infrastructure investment achieved under President Clinton and further advances the Administration's goals for: economic and job development; welfare to work; urban revitalization; safety; environmental protection; technology deployment; and common sense government.

We recommend an event with the President, the VP and/or other senior Administration officials. The audience would include transportation, urban, environmental and public interest groups.

We believe Presidential involvement on this issue will amplify the Presidents commitment to infrastructure investment and afford the opportunity to tie transportation directly to the everyday needs of Americans. State and local governments have made passage of reauthorization a high priority.

Depowering of Air Bags: Possible Dates: March 17 or on or before announcement of Rule

Background: The Department intends to issue a final rule allowing auto manufacturers to depower air bags from current levels by March 17 This action follows a proposed rule published on January 6, 1997. The rule will reduce injuries and fatalities that air bags are occasionally inducing to children and primarily small adults. It is part of a comprehensive plan announced by the Department on November 22, 1996 to deal with air bag safety questions. This was also part of the announcement that the President made in his radio address on auto safety December 28, 1996.

AIP Announcements

In addition to the above events, we are anticipating some announcements of Airport Improvement Fund (AIP) grants at White House convenience. While

we do not see a need for a Presidential event, we would like to offer the White House the opportunity to make these announcements via phone calls to the delegations and state officials. Please let us know which announcements you would like to make so that we can schedule the other grant notifications.

Memphis, TN Int'l Airport \$ 9,338,302  
Construct runway and taxiways; extend taxiways; improve access road (construct tunnel) and drainage (Phase IV)

Nashville, TN Int'l Airport 1,678,805  
Construct water quality and drainage treatment facilities (Phase III)

Covington, TN Municipal 954,000  
Improve runway safety area; construct taxiway (Phase II)

State of Illinois Several Airports 8,188,245 (Block Grant)  
Various airport development projects at non-primary airports under the State Block Grant Program

Myrtle Beach, SC Int'l Airport 1,452,506  
Rehabilitate taxiways

Columbia, SC Metro Airport 1,894,251  
Rehabilitate and light runway (Phase II); Construct taxiway

Greer, SC Greenville-Spartenberg 3,591,698  
Extend runway (Phase IV)

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan ( CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 11:26:26.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of April 7, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE      April 2, 1997

FROM:            Secretary Slater

SUBJECT:            DOT Weekly Report -- Week of April 7, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

**DOT Thirtieth Anniversary:** On April 2, as part of the DOT's thirtieth anniversary, Secretary Slater announced a \$10.3 million grant to the Maryland Mass Transit Administration at Baltimore-Washington International Airport for construction on the Baltimore Central Corridor Light Rail Line to help complete 7.5 miles of extensions to Penn Station, Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) and the Hunt Valley. Secretary Slater was joined by Senator Paul Sarbanes, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Congressman Elijah Cummings, Maryland Governor Parris Glendening, Maryland Transportation Secretary Winstead, Mayor of Baltimore Kurt Schmoke and FTA Administrator Gordon J. Linton at various events throughout the day. Secretary Slater also toured transportation facilities in the Baltimore area, visiting the Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard and Sea Girt Marine Terminal. The Secretary also greeted passengers on AMTRAKs Metroliner as he rode from Baltimore, accompanied by AMTRAK President Tom Downs, to Washingtons Union Station, where he addressed DOT employees.

**Secretary Slater Tours National Airport Tower.** On April 1, the Secretary, along with FAA Deputy Administrator Monte Belger, led a media tour of the new air traffic control tower at National Airport. The tour was one of several events marking the 30th anniversary of DOT.

**Secretary Meets with Big 3 Automakers:** On April 8, the Secretary is scheduled to meet with the CEOs of the big three automakers to discuss various issues of interest to the automotive industry.

**Secretary Holds Meeting with Airline CEOs:** Over the next several weeks, Secretary Slater will hold meetings with major airline CEOs.

Secretary Travels to North Dakota: On April 4, Secretary Slater will travel to Grand Forks, ND, at the request of Senator Byron Dorgan to tour Devils Lake, an area that is susceptible to basin flooding. The Secretary and the Senator will be accompanied by regional transportation representatives. The Secretary will also address the Minnkota Power Annual Meeting and tour the Advance Transportation Weather System Center at the University of North Dakota.

Possible Settlement at American: On April 3 and 4 the APAs 18 member board will reconvene to decide whether to approve the agreement in principle that it has reached with American. That agreement, the PEB report, and other documents have been sent to the APA membership. If the board rejects the tentative agreement, a cooling-off period would begin, with the possibility of a strike by May 5. If the APA board approves the tentative agreement, the union membership would then be given an opportunity to vote on the agreement. If the membership then rejects the tentative agreement, a cooling-off period would commence with that action. The ratification process could take 60 or more days and a strike might then begin sometime in July. Department staff is continuing to monitor the situation and is preparing a new revised impact assessment in the event a strike occurs in May.

Sacramento Light Rail Project Record of Decision Issued: On March 31, the Federal Transit Administration issued the Record of Decision for Sacramento Regional Transits South Sacramento Corridor Light Rail Project. The latest Treasury transit funding estimates indicate that there is not sufficient funding room to fully accommodate the Sacramento Full Funding Grant Agreement. The Department is examining possible solutions.

Boeing 747 Fuel Tank Ignition: The NTSB has made 4 recommendations that are intended to reduce the likelihood of airplane fuel tank ignition. The NTSB recommendations resulted from the TWA 800 accident. The cause of the accident has not been determined. However, evidence suggests that explosion of fuel vapors within the center wing fuel tank occurred due to a yet to be determined ignition source. So that technical data can be gathered and evaluated prior to responding to the NTSB recommendations, the FAA intends to publish a notice requesting industry and public comment in the Federal Register on April 3.

Delta Airlines Incident, Dallas/Ft.Worth (DFW), TX: On April 2, the FAA issued an Airworthiness Directive requiring a check of hinge fitting bolts on the outboard trailing edge flaps on 767 aircraft. This was prompted by an incident on March 27, involving Delta Flight 691, a Boeing 767, which lost a portion of its right inboard trailing edge flap while approaching the DFW Airport. The flap section, approximately 20 feet long, fell into a field near Carrollton, TX, and the aircraft landed safely at DFW. FAA inspectors have examined the aircraft. Inspection reveals that four bolts failed at the inboard end of the flap, followed by the flap tearing itself loose from the outboard mount.

Grant Announcements: On March 31, Secretary Slater announced a grant of \$9.3 million for improvements at Memphis, TN International Airport.

**NHTSAs First Side Crash Test Results:** Announcement for NHTSAs first side crash test results is currently planned for the second week of April. Results from 17 passenger cars that were crash tested for side impact will be included in the announcement. This information will provide consumers with safety data on the two most common injury-causing crash events, which should assist consumers with their car purchasing decisions.

**Report on U.S.-Canada Aviation Services:** The Department has completed a report summarizing the significant benefits that have been derived from the U.S.-Canada aviation agreement in the 2 years since it was signed. This report was prepared in anticipation of the visit by Prime Minister Chretien with President Clinton next week. The report notes that traffic has grown by over 3.4 million passengers, an increase of 28% during this time. In addition, fares have fallen by an average of 12% in the leading U.S.-Canada markets and fallen by 28% in the 17 markets with new non-stop service. The Department is coordinating this report with White House staff.

**Japanese Port Practices:** On April 2, Assistant Secretary Charles A. Hunnicutt and Maritime Administrator Herberger will meet with the Director General of Maritime Affairs for the Japanese Ministry of Transportation, Mr. Eweta, to discuss recent efforts by Japan to address its port practices which discriminate against foreign carriers. Issues to be discussed include licensing of foreign carriers and prior consultation requirements. Japan remains under threat of sanction by the Federal Maritime Commission for these practices if it does not take corrective action by April 14.

**European Conference of Ministers of Transport:** Deputy Secretary Downey will attend the 81st Session of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, April 20-23 in Berlin, Germany. The major transport issues are European-Wide Transport Policy, Transport and Infrastructure Development, Crime in Transport, and Vulnerable Transport Users.

**Coast Guard Commandant and Texas Governor Bush Release Details on GULF SHIELD:** On March 27, Admiral Kramek and Texas Governor George Bush released details of Operation GULF SHIELD in a press conference in Corpus Christi, TX. Governor Bush welcomed federal support for this Coast Guard led interagency counter narcotics operation, which seeks to deny the South Texas area to traffickers coming from Mexico on small boats. The operation is expected to run indefinitely. The Coast Guard has solicited Mexican participation.

**Update to Barge Accident in Lower Mississippi River:** On March 17, a tug and barge struck the Highway 190 bridge over the Mississippi River, near Baton Rouge, LA. The barges broke loose from the towboat and were carried down river. One tank barge carrying pyrolysis gas, a gasoline product, overturned and lodged against the bridge. On March 28 the barge was safely refloated and taken to a repair facility. Media interest was high. Due to the swift current on the river the Coast Guard has placed various restrictions on vessel traffic.

**WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES**

## NEXTEA

On March 27, Deputy Secretary Mort Downey represented the Department at the NECs NEXTEA Working Group Meeting. On March 24, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Jack Basso, together with FHWA and FTA staff, briefed Governors Washington, DC Transportation Representatives on the Presidents NEXTEA Proposal. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs John Horsely spoke to the National Association of County Engineers at their convention in Birmingham, AL, together with Congressman Baucus. DOT witnesses appeared at 3 Senate Environment and Public Works Field Hearings: FHWA Acting Administrator Jane Garvey in Couer dAlene, ID, on March 22; DAS for Transportation Policy Janno Lieber in Kansas City, MO, on March 26, and ITS Joint Program Office Director Christine Johnson in Las Vegas, NV, on March 28.

Additionally, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold field hearings in April. On April 7, Deputy Secretary Downey will testify at a hearing in NYC, and on April 21, Secretary Slater will testify at a hearing in Providence, RI.

### Bridge to Asia-Pacific

Singapore: On April 8, the United States and Singapore will formally sign and enter into force an "Open-Skies" Air Transport Agreement. The Agreement, which was initialed at the conclusion of talks this past January, will be the first "Open-Skies" agreement we have in Asia. We have initialed and hope to soon sign similar agreements with Brunei and Taiwan. Negotiations with Malaysia are proceeding rapidly.

### Exports/Trade/Open Economy

Central America "Open-Skies" Initiative: On March 12, Panama became the first Latin American country to initial an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement. American Embassies in El Salvador and Guatemala have begun discussions on the text of the U.S. "Open-Skies" aviation agreement. State is preparing a new Spanish text to be given to Costa Rica and Honduras as well as other Central American countries. Once Costa Rica and Honduras have an acceptable Spanish text they are expected to initial as well. Belize and Nicaragua are showing more interest in the U.S. initiative.

### Safety

Seat Belt Report to the President: The Department is working with DPC to schedule an event at the White House during the week of April 7 to release the Departments report to the President on increasing seat belt use.

### Reinvention

Coast Guard-American Waterways Safety Partnership: On April 2, Deputy Secretary Downey presented the Hammer Award in recognition of the Coast Guard-American Waterways Safety Partnership, a safety initiative aimed at strengthening the communications and working relationship between the

Coast Guard and barge and towing industry. The 2 partners launched an intensive industry-wide safety improvement campaign which cut crew fatalities by 50%. The success of this program has encouraged the establishment of another partnership to reduce hazardous spills on Americans waterways.

Coast Guard Yard Baltimore: On April 2, Secretary Slater presented the Hammer Award to the Inside Machine Shop Action Breakout Team for their efforts in manufacturing propulsion shafts for Coast Guard patrol boats. The new process improvement meets or exceeds customer requirements, while improving employee morale and productivity. Unit costs and production time have decreased, realizing a savings to the taxpayer of \$120,000 annually.

#### NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

FY98 Senate Transportation Appropriations: The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation will hold the following transportation appropriations hearings: ISTEAs Reauthorization on April 10, Aviation Safety and Security on April 16, and User Fees and Innovative Financing proposals on April 23. Department witnesses will be Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey, FTA Administrator Linton and NHTSA Administrator Martinez on April 10, a FAA witness on April 16 and Deputy Secretary Downey on May 7.

Congressional Hearing: On April 9, the Senate Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing titled "Aviation Accidents, Policies and Procedures." FAA has been invited to testify.

Congress Holds Drug Hearing on Cutter in Puerto Rico: On April 3, the Crime Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, under Chairman McCollum, will hold a hearing on drug interdiction onboard the Cutter GALLATIN in San Juan, PR. Admiral Kramek will testify, together with FBI Director Freeh, DEA Administrator Constantine, Customs Commissioner Weise, and Puerto Rican Governor Rosello. Operation FRONTIER SHIELD, the ongoing Coast Guard operation in the Eastern Caribbean, will be spotlighted during the hearing. A press conference is planned.

Airbags and Child Restraints: On April 9, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance has tentatively scheduled a hearing on airbags and child restraints. NHTSA Administrator Martinez will testify.

TWA 800 Hearing: On April 9, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation has tentatively scheduled a hearing on the TWA accident. Witnesses will include the FAA, NTSB, FBI and U.S. Navy.

Aviation Insurance Program: On May 1, the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is expected to hold a hearing on reauthorization of the aviation war risk insurance program. A witness from the FAA is expected to testify.

Deputy Secretary

April 4

The Deputy Secretary will give remarks at the American Consulting Engineers Council (ACEC) Breakfast Meeting at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

April 16-17

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Warrenton, VA.

April 20-23

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Conference.

April 29 (Tentative)

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the International Intermodal Exposition.

May 5

The Deputy Secretary will deliver opening remarks at the High Speed Rail Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

May 8

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the WTS 20th Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

May 29-30

The Deputy Secretary will participate in Amtrak meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

#### Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

April 2-5

The Director of Bureau of Transportation Statistics will attend the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Fort Worth, TX.

April 4

FTA Administrator Linton will speak on NEXTEA and participate in a panel on FTAs Livable Communities Initiative at the Maryland City and County Managers Association meeting in Baltimore.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Mark Gerchick, will meeting with Korean aviation officials in Seoul, Korea to discuss outstanding issues prior to the negotiations of an open-skies agreement with Korea.

The Acting Administrator for FHWA will speak at the New England Transportation Forum in Springfield, MA.

April 5

Assistant Secretary Louise Stoll to speak at the christening and launching of the USCG Cutter ABBIE BURGESS in Marinette, WI.

April 6-9

Admiral Kramek will attend the CSC Index in Arizona.

April 7-9

Acting FAA Administrator, Barry Valentine, will speak at the Annual EAA event in Lakeland, FL.

April 8

RSPA Deputy Administrator will deliver opening remarks at the FAAs Coordinators Conference in Washington, DC

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the American College of Emergency Physicians Legislative Issues Forum in Washington, D.C.

SLSDC Administrator McDonald will meet with the Chicago Board of Trade officials in Washington, D.C.

April 9

The Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs will represent the Department in informal bilateral aviation negotiations with Japan in Honolulu.

April 9-10

FAA Acting Administrator Barry Valentine will speak at the Illinois Aviation Conference in Peoria, IL.

April 9-11

SLSDC Administrator McDonald will be the luncheon speaker at the Canada Grains Councils 28th Annual Conference in Ottawa, Canada.

April 10

MARAD Administrator Herberger will attend the National Defense Transportation Association/CEO Meeting at Scott AFB, IL.

Assistant Secretary Kruesi will be the dinner speaker at the National Industrial Transportation League Railroad Transportation Committee Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

April 11

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will participate in a Crash Injury Research Engineering Network (CIREN) Conference in Ann Arbor, MI.

April 12

Admiral and Mrs. Kramek will attend the dual-commissioning of the Cutters IDA LEWIS and WILLOW in Newport, RI.

FTA Administrator Linton will travel to Salt Lake City to participate in a ground breaking for the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) for the North/South light rail line and meeting with Mayor Corradini and the Olympic Committee.

April 13

FRA Administrator Molitoris will be the keynote speaker at the American Public Transit Associations 1997 Commuter Rail Conference in Dallas, TX.

April 14

FRA Administrator Molitoris will address the first of three Federal Railroad Administration multi-regional conferences.

Admiral Kramek will speak at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association, Port of NY Luncheon in NYC.

Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey will speak at the annual meeting of the American Concrete Pipe Association in Charleston, SC.

FTA Administrator Linton will speak on FTAs Access to Jobs Initiative at the National Congress for Community Economic Developments Forum on Welfare to Work in Washington, D.C.

April 14-15

Admiral Kramek will attend functions in New York with the American Bureau of Shipping.

April 14-18

The Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs will represent the Department at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Transportation Working Group meeting in Seattle, WA.

April 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Arlie, VA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

April 16-18

The Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs will represent the Department at the 6th Annual Phoenix International Aviation Symposium.

April 17

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Coalition of Consumer Health and Safety in Washington, DC

SLSDC Administrator McDonald will attend a meeting of the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control, in Washington, D.C.

April 18

SLSDC Administrator McDonald will participate in meetings with the International Joint Commission and the Great Lakes Board of Control in Washington, D.C.

April 19-21

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, John Horsely, will speak at the Annual Meeting of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, in Jekyll Island, GA.

April 19-23

The Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy will accompany the Deputy Secretary to the ECMT meetings in Berlin.

April 21

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will address the Board of Directors of

TRANSNOW, a DOT University Transportation Center headquartered at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA.

April 22

The FAA Acting Administrator will speak at the FAA International Directors General meeting in Los Angeles, CA.

FAA Acting Deputy Administrator Monte Belger will speak in Bloomington and Minneapolis, MN, at a Professional Women Controllers Convention and at a dedication of the Minneapolis Tower.

April 22

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the Spring 97 COHMED Conference in Seattle, WA.

April 25

RSPA Administrator Sharma will deliver remarks at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, DC.

April 28-29

FRA Administrator Molitoris will visit FRA employees in Region 8 in Vancouver, WA.

April 29

Admiral Kramek will meet with Commissioner David Watters, head of the Canadian Coast Guard.

The RSPA Deputy Administrator will deliver remarks at the National Association of Pipeline State Representatives meeting in Williamsburg, VA.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at a conference in Tampa, FL, on fatigue in freight transportation.

Acting FAA Administrator Valentine will speak with USAF officials on a number of issues at Langley AFB, VA.

April 30

Admiral Kramek will attend the National Propeller Club salute to Congress dinner in Washington.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage and Seward, AK, to participate in a special train trip hosted by the Railroad Operating Rules Association of North America.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will be a guest speaker at the Primary Seatbelt Enforcement Law for the District of Columbia Press Conference in Washington, DC.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma will deliver remarks at the City College of New York in NYC.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma will deliver remarks at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ.

May 1-2

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Anchorage, AK, to be the keynote speaker at the biannual meeting of the Railroad Operating Rules Association of North America, and will visit several of the Alaska Railroad Corporations facilities.

May 1-3

Associate Deputy Secretary, Michael Huerta, will participate in the National Federation of Municipal Analysts annual conference in Coronado, CA.

May 5

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Las Vegas, NV, to be the keynote speaker at the High-Speed Ground Transportation Associations 1997 International Convention and Exposition.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the SAE International Annual Government/Industry meeting in Washington, D.C.

May 6

Admiral Kramek will address the Baltimore Coast Guard Officers Association Luncheon.

May 7

Maritime Administrator Herberger will speak at the American Society of Testing and Materials Symposium on Safety of Commercial Vessel Operations on Rivers in St. Louis, MO.

May 8-10

Admiral Kramek will attend functions with the Coast Guard Foundation in San Francisco.

May 8

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Baltimore, MD, to be the keynote speaker at the 1997 Womens Transportation Seminar National Conference.

May 12

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will address the American Ambulance Association Stars of Life Awards Dinner in Washington, DC

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Atlanta, GA, to address the second of three FRA multi-regional conferences.

May 13

Admiral Kramek will attend the CG Atlantic Area change of command in Portsmouth, VA.

May 19

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the American Ambulance Association Stars of Life Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.

May 20

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Japan Transportation

Research Centers Conference on Advanced Vehicle Technology in Washington, D.C.

May 22

Admiral Kramek will host newly-selected flag and general officers participating in the CAPSTONE orientation program.

May 23

Admiral Kramek will attend the CG Pacific Area change of command.

May 28

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference in San Diego, CA.

May 30

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will speak to the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California Spring Conference, San Diego, CA.

June 4-6

Admiral Kramek will attend the Change of Command for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL.

June 7

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Safe Communities Best Practices in Orlando, FL.

June 9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Sacramento, CA, to address the third and final FRA multi-regional conference.

June 10

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at Lifesavers 14: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices, in Orlando, FL.

June 12

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Philip Recht will speak at the annual meeting of Trial Attorneys of America in Chicago, IL.

June 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Minneapolis, MN, to participate in the Small Railroads in the Non Urban Economy -- A Partnership conference.

June 18

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the National Emergency Number Association Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

Media Inquiries

(New listings above asterisk)

Los Angeles Times profile of Secretary Slater expected to run April 7.

USA Today, March 31, interviewed the director of FAA Air Traffic Service regarding a program to train personnel to replace National Weather Service observers at centers. Story to be published April 2.

Washington Times, March 27, also preparing story on FAA weather observer program, spoke with director of FAA Air Traffic Service. Story date unknown.

CBS 60 Minutes, March 25, contacted FHWA about contract arrangements in regard to Boston Central Artery project. Air date not known.

CNN, March 26, contacted Jeff Lindley of FHWA ITS office regarding intermodal simulation facility being developed by National Aviation Transportation Center on Long Island. However, FHWA has cited project as a congressional earmark that is not part of DOT's ITS program. Air date not known.

Washington Post, March 25-26, for story on aggressive driving, was briefed on Capital Beltway Safety Task Force.

USA Today, March 25, received background from FHWA about Red Light Running program and technology to detect speeding cars and other infractions.

Wall Street Journal, March 18, received background information from FHWA on vehicle miles traveled by combination trucks.

Associated Press, April 1, was briefed on MARAD Title XI program, and last week agency was provided background and on-the-record discussions on U.S.-China maritime relations. Story expected this week.

New York Times story on RSPAs responses to NTSB recommendations on pipeline safety could run as early as this week.

\* \* \* \* \*

The New York Times has filed FOIA request regarding \$450,000 fine against USAir. The Times received background interview with FAA's Office of General Counsel and on-the-record interview with representatives of Office of Regulation and Certification, Office of Flight Standards and Office of Civil Aviation Security. Article was scheduled to run March 23, but has not yet appeared.

## FOIA REQUESTS

Number of operational error for the last 5 years at the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport; report by the Operational Investigations Team concerning the operational errors; and January 15 incident report involving a near-miss -- The Plain Dealer FAA contracts with several specified companies -- Time Magazine, Washington, DC

\*\*\*\*\*

Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 5-6, Jackie Lowey will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Courtney Manning ( Courtney Manning [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:03:26.00

SUBJECT: EPA Weekly Report

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CAROL M. BROWNER

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for April 16, 1997

#### KEY AGENCY NEWS

EPA's FY 1998 House Appropriations Hearings: On 4/15 and 4/16, Administrator Browner, Deputy Administrator Hansen and the Assistant Administrators testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA/HUD and Independent Agencies (Lewis, CA) on the Agency,s FY +98 budget request.

Outstanding Mother Award: On Thursday, 4/17, Administrator Browner will travel to New York to be honored as one of 1997's Outstanding Mothers by the National Mother,s Day Committee, in recognition of her contributions to family and society as a civic leader and environmentalist.

Earth Day: Next week, to celebrate Earth Day, Administrator Browner expects to participate in several events including an event with the Vice President on Monday (4/21) to announce an Executive Order to Protect Children From Environmental Health and Safety Threats; and an Earth Day Event with the President on Tuesday (4/22) regarding Community Right-To-Know Expansion. Administrator Browner will also sign a MOU with several other federal agencies and senior citizens groups to amplify the President,s message on volunteerism and the need for all Americans to protect our environment.

EPA Deputy Administrator Hansen, Assistant Administrators and Regional Administrators will participate in Earth Day events in Seattle, Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Dallas, Hartford and other cities around the country.

Expansion of Community Right-to-Know: We continue to work with the Vice President,s office, OMB and CEQ to resolve issues surrounding EPA,s proposed expansion of the community right-to-know program (which provides facility-specific information on toxic chemical releases) to seven new industrial sectors.

We are also working with the White House on a potential event to announce the expansion.

**Children's Exposure to Pesticides:** EPA has awarded a three-year grant to the University of Minnesota to help assess risks children may face in different settings from exposure to pesticides. The work, *Measuring and Apportioning Children's Exposure to Pesticide in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Communities*,<sup>8</sup> is designed to: measure *total exposure*<sup>8</sup> for selected pesticides from a variety of sources (e.g. diet, drinking water, etc.) for a sample of children living in central-city, suburban, and rural neighborhoods in Minnesota; and compare children's pesticide exposure among an inner-city urban area, a suburban neighborhood, and a rural agricultural community.

Diverse information will be collected about each child in the study, and results are expected to improve assessments of risks to children from pesticide exposure and to inform and strengthen regulatory decisions about which pesticide risks are unacceptable and what should be done about them.

**Meeting with House Commerce Committee Democrats:** On 4/16, Administrator Browner met with the Democratic caucus of the House Commerce Committee to discuss Superfund Reauthorization. The Administrator emphasized the administrative improvements made in the program over the last four years, and discussed the Administration's work to reauthorize Superfund.

**Groundwater Contamination at the Massachusetts Military Reserve:** Last week, EPA issued an order to the National Guard Bureau and the Massachusetts National Guard concerning activities at the Massachusetts Military Reserve on Cape Cod. EPA ordered that the use of propellants and pyrotechnics in conjunction with training exercises be stopped because of contamination of the aquifer beneath the Reserve which supplies drinking water to local residents. EPA is now working closely with the Department of Defense and the National Guard on an agreement which will control further groundwater contamination while still respecting the training needs of the Massachusetts National Guard. Governor Weld, and Senators Kennedy and Kerry are supportive of EPA's action, as are the residents of Cape Cod for whom contamination at the Military Reserve has been a concern for many years.

**States Contributing to Regional Air Pollution:** This week, EPA identified 26 eastern states that will need to make additional air pollution reductions in order to address the regional ozone (smog) air pollution in the eastern U.S. Over the last 2 years, EPA has worked closely with a group of 37 eastern states to develop a broad regional strategy to reduce smog across the entire area. Based on initial results from this joint EPA-state effort, EPA expects that many of these states will need to make additional air pollution reductions. Final results are expected in June 1997, after which EPA would propose regulations to implement a regional program. This regional effort will help many communities meet federal air quality health standards for ozone and particulate matter (soot), which EPA has proposed to strengthen.

**International Wastewater Treatment Facility, San Diego:** A ribbon-cutting

ceremony to formally initiate the operation of the International Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) is planned in San Diego, California on April 18, 1997. EPA, through the International Border and Water Commission (IBWC), funded the \$239 million cost of the facility. Vice President Gore attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the plant in 1994. Construction of the facility addresses a major issue of long-standing concern for the residents of San Diego County. Since the 1980's, renegade sewage flows from Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico have flowed north through the Tijuana River into San Diego, causing numerous quarantines of San Diego beaches as well as public nuisance and public health concerns.

In 1990, the US and Mexico agreed to build a 25 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant in San Diego to treat sewage from Tijuana. The plant is now ready to begin operation, although the ocean outfall for the plant is still under construction and will not be completed until 1998. In the interim, the treated wastewater will be discharged to San Diego's wastewater treatment system. Once complete, the outfall will discharge the treated wastewater into the ocean approximately 3 miles off the San Diego coastline.

**Anti-Biotechnology Demonstrations:** The Foundation on Economic Trends announced that activists in thirty nations are organizing press events against genetic engineering in food as well as animal and human cloning. U.S. cities include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Detroit, Atlanta, Austin, Tucson, Albuquerque, and Iowa City. None are scheduled in Washington and we are not aware of any protests at federal agencies at this point. The protests are in response to the recent introduction of genetically engineered food onto the world market and the news last month of the first cloning of a mammal and the quickened pace of patents on transgenic plants and animal and human genes.

**News Story on Public Health Claims on Consumer Product Labeling:** CBS will soon interview EPA for a story on whether the public health claims made on numerous consumer products that contain anti-microbial substances (kitchen sponges, children's toys) have been proven. Under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), any company that intends to sell a product with pesticidal claims (that relate to public health) must register the product with EPA and show that their product works. EPA, however, is currently looking into a number of products to ensure they are in compliance.

**Export of PCB-Contaminated Ships:** On 4/11, the Office of Management and Budget held a meeting to discuss issues surrounding the attempt by the Navy to exempt itself from provisions of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) through the DOD FY98 Authorization Bill. Although issues were not resolved at the meeting, there was general agreement that all parties should work within the Administration without seeking legislation. Representatives of EPA, the National Security Council (NSC), DOJ, GSA, DOT, and the Navy were present.

TSCA bans the export of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and PCB-containing articles. Both the Navy and DOT (the Maritime Administration or MARAD) are

interested in exporting ships that have been &retired8 that may contain large quantities of PCBs and PCB-containing articles without providing notice to the receiving countries or giving the countries the opportunity to reject the shipment. The Administration,s policy is that Federal entities must meet the same environmental standards as private industry and that PCB exports should be handled consistent with the Basel Convention for hazardous wastes and other international controls.

Although TSCA bans exporting ships for disposal, EPA has allowed MARAD under a Compliance Agreement to export a limited number of ships subject to removal of the more concentrated PCBs and to providing notice to the receiving country. MARAD has asked that the notice provisions in the agreement be modified because of its recent experience with the government of India, which objected to export of a vessel once the presence of PCBs was made known. (The Navy has not been able to reach agreement with EPA on a similar Compliance Agreement and is not currently exporting any ships.) EPA is currently exploring several options that could allow export of vessels to be used for scrap metal. For example, EPA may require only minimal notice for very low level PCB contamination, such as PCBs found in paint.

## WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

The White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What the Newest Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children:

This Conference will help emphasize the importance of ensuring that children receive the early protection they need, and highlight the critical role EPA plays in fulfilling our nation,s obligation to protect future generations from environmental hazards. Dr. Phil Landrigan, one of the country,s leading environmental pediatricians and the Director of EPA,s new Office of Children,s Health Protection, will participate in the panel discussions at the White House.

Administrator Browner will amplify the President,s message on children,s health in interviews in targeted markets. In addition, EPA regional offices are helping to host the regional satellite conferences taking place around the country that day.

Project XL: On 4/16, Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen signed a Federal Register notice laying out mid-course improvements to EPA,s Project XL initiative. Project XL is a program that allows the regulated community an opportunity to gain greater regulatory flexibility in exchange for a commitment to a higher level of environmental results.

The Environmental Council of the States was instrumental in helping the Agency identify and clarify the issues. We have listened carefully to the concerns brought before us and clarified critical issues, such as superior environmental performance, regulatory flexibility, and stakeholder involvement. While we cannot say that we reached consensus on all issues, we have attempted to achieve a good balance. EPA remains committed to continuing the formal and informal discussions to improve the program further and will hold at least quarterly round table meetings with our

various constituencies and also conduct an extensive outreach effort.

## CONGRESS

### Legislative Action this Week

- On April 10, Rep. Shuster (R-PA) introduced H.R. 1268, the National Economic Crossroads Efficiency Act (NEXTTEA), to reauthorize ISTEA. This is a companion bill to S. 468, introduced on March 18 by Sens. Chafee (R-RI) and Moynihan (D-NY).
- On April 10, Rep. Upton (R-MI) introduced H.R. 1270, a Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendment, to address the storage of spent nuclear fuel in Yucca Mtn., NV. This is a companion bill to S. 104 (not the Murkowski Substitute), introduced on January 21 by Sen. Murkowski (R-AK).
- On April 10, Rep. Engel (D-NY) introduced H.R. 1284, a Safe Drinking Water Amendment, to allow municipalites to reapply for exemption from filtration requirements under the Surface Water Treatment Rule.
- On April 10, Rep. Saxton (R-NJ) introduced H.R. 1308, a Safe Drinking Water Amendment, to disallow exemption or variances from Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) provisions. Saxton's bill would also remove reference to cost/benefit analyses within SDWA.
- On April 10, Rep. Stupak (D-MI) introduced H.R. 1311, a Clean Water Act Amendment.
- On April 10, Sen. McConnell (R-KY) introduced a Clean Air Act Amendment, to address the CAA's definition of volatile organic compounds. This is a companion bill to H.R. 679 introduced on February 11 by Rep. Hamilton (D-IN).
- On April 15, the Senate passed S. 104, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendment (Yucca Mtn.) by a margin of 65 to 34.
- On April 15 and 16, Administrator Browner testified before the House Appropriations Subc. on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies (Lewis R-CA) on the Agency's FY +98 budget request.
- On April 16, the House Commerce Committee (Bliley R-VA) approved H.R. 688, a Solid Waste Disposal Act Amendment, that addresses EPA's Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program.
- On April 16, the House Science Subc. on Energy and the Environment (Calvert R-CA) is expected to approve H.R. 1276, the Environmental Research, Development and Demonstration Act (ERDDA). This bill, introduced on April 10 by Rep. Calvert, would authorize additional funds for research and development at EPA through fiscal year 1999.
- On April 16, the Government Reform and Oversight Subc. on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs (McIntosh R-IN) will hold a hearing on the proposed Ozone/PM NAAQS.
- On April 17, Asst. Administrator for Water Bob Perciasepe will testify before the House Resources Subc. on Water and Power (Doolittle R-CA) on the CalFed Bay Delta Program.
- On April 17, Asst. Administrator for Air Mary Nichols will testify before the House Commerce Subcs. on Health and the Environment (Bilirakis R-FL) and Oversight and Investigations (Barton R-TX) on the proposed Ozone/PM NAAQS.

-- On April 17, Director of Regulatory Management and Information Tom Kelly will testify before the Small Business Subcs. on Government Programs and Oversight (Bartlett R-MD) and Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction (Kelly R-NY) on implementation of SBREFA and coordination with SBA on the development of Small Business Advisory Committees. SBA and OSHA representatives will also testify at the hearing.

#### Current Legislative Issues

Nuclear Waste -- Yucca Mountain. On April 15, Administrator Browner sent a letter to Sen. Bryan (D-NV) explaining EPA,s environmental concerns with the Murkowski Substitute. No action is yet scheduled on Rep. Upton,s companion bill

Clean Water Act / Safe Drinking Water Act. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is expected to address EPA,s Clean Water Act Needs Survey; the benefits of privatization; EPA,s Performance Partnership Grants; EPA,s Hardship Grant Program; and the Drinking Water Needs Survey. They will also address the need for or possibility of Clean Water Act reauthorization.

#### UPCOMING HEARINGS & MARK-UPS

Date	Committee	Subject	Testifying
4/23	Trans. & Infra. Water Asst. Administrator for the Infrastructure Environment (Boehlert NY)	Clean Water and Drinking Water Subc. on Water Resources and Water Bob Perciasepe	
4/23	House Government Reform and Oversight NAAQS Administrator Browner Subc. on Natl. Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs (McIntosh IN)	PM/Ozone Sally Katzen, OMB	
4/29	Trans. & Infra. & Bob Wayland Subc. on Water Resources and the Nationwide Permits Office of Wetlands, Environment (Boehlert R-NY)	Wetlands: Tulloch Rule Oceans and Watersheds	

#### PRESS

Children ,s Health: Administrator Browner will amplify the President ,s message on children ,s health in Tampa, Fl, Seattle, WA, Buffalo, NY and Cleveland, OH on Thursday, April 17.

Volunteer Week: Administrator Browner conducted radio and television interviews on 4/16 to amplify the President ,s message on volunteerism and

the Presidential Summit later this month.

**Earth Day:** On Monday (4/21), Administrator Browner will sign an MOU with several other federal agencies and senior citizens groups to amplify the President's message on volunteerism and the need for all Americans to protect our environment.

**Mother of the Year:** Administrator Browner will travel to New York City on Thursday (4/17) to receive the Mother of the Year Award from the Mother's Day Committee. Administrator Browner will discuss the need to provide our children with strong environmental protections, and the Clinton Administration's accomplishments in protecting children's health.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S SCHEDULE

4/17 Breakfast hosted by Audubon Society, New York  
4/17 Accept Mother of the Year Award, New York City  
4/18 Visit Edmund Burke School, D.C.  
4/18 Phone calls for amplification of & Volunteer Summit  
4/21 Interview with C-SPAN re: Earth Day  
4/21 Earth Day Event with Vice President re: Children's Health Executive Order  
4/22 Earth Day Event with President re: Community Right-To-Know Expansion  
4/23 House Government Reform Subcommittee (McIntosh) Hearing re: proposed air standards  
4/23 Lunch with Mary Gade, Environmental Commissioner for Illinois  
4/24 Address Los Angeles Town Hall re: proposed air quality standards  
4/24 Interview with Michael Jackson, radio show, Los Angeles  
4/25 Address National Conference of Black Mayors, St. Louis, MO  
4/29 President's Council on Sustainable Development Meeting  
4/30 Meeting with Dr. Angela Merkel (German Minister for the Environment)  
4/30 Meeting with National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee  
5/1 Senate Democratic Caucus Meeting  
5/4-6 G-7 Environmental Leaders Meeting, Miami  
5/9 Meeting with Mark Van Putten, National Wildlife Federation  
5/17 Address Society of Environmental Journalists regional meeting, Cleveland, re: proposed air standards  
5/22 All States Meeting (state environmental commissioners)  
5/22 President's Environmental Youth Awards  
5/23 Travel for Announcement re: Beaches Water Quality  
5/28 National Press Club panel re: proposed air standards  
5/28 Travel to Boston, MA  
5/29 Travel to CT

#### DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S SCHEDULE

4/17 Meeting w/Bill Long, Director of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development) Environment Directorate  
4/17 Meeting w/GAO officials re: EPA's Reinvention Program  
4/18 Address the "Friday Forum," a group of Washington-based industry representatives re: current environmental issues

4/21 Meeting w/Jim Lyons, USDA Assistant Secretary re: urban initiatives

4/22 Signing of Memo of Cooperation w/SBA Deputy Administrator in support of EPA's voluntary energy star Small Business pollution prevention program

## REGULATORY ACTION

**Standards for Disposal of Hazardous Waste in Landfills:** This week, the Administrator will sign two regulatory actions addressing the management of certain hazardous wastes (wastes from wood preserving operations, certain mineral processing wastes, etc.). These actions are required under the Land Disposal Restriction (LDR) program of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the law governing hazardous waste. EPA agreed to take these actions at this time in settlement of litigation. The LDR program requires EPA to set standards for hazardous wastes that are disposed on the land (including in a landfill) that minimize the threat to public health and the environment from those wastes. In developing these actions, EPA explored a broad range of options, reflecting our scientific understanding of the risks from these wastes, and the input we have received from stakeholders (including the regulated community and environmental groups).

## FOIA REQUESTS

This week, EPA received 532 requests for information. The Agency has received a total of 6,865 inquiries this year. We received the following requests of interest:

The Agency is considering a request from Jim Barnett of the Oregonian who is asking for communications on Project XL and communication between EPA and any member of Congress regarding these projects.

The Agency is also considering a request from the Hartford Courant asking for documents relating to the Region 1 (New England) Administrator's involvement in enforcement matters, and also minutes of enforcement agenda meetings.

Weekend contact: Peter D. Robertson  
Chief of Staff  
H: (703) 920-8428  
Pager: 1-800-759-7243 PIN 471-0595

cc: Kitty Higgins

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Judi Gold ( CN=Judi Gold/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:24:41.00

SUBJECT: from Jackie Lowey

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM TO: STEVE SILVERMAN  
Cabinet Affairs

FROM: Jacqueline Lowey  
Deputy Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Major Announcements from DOT

DATE: March 4, 1997

Following are possible announcements from the Department which could have White House involvement. Please contact me if you have any questions.

#### Possible Events

One Level of Safety Rule                      Possible Dates: March 20, 21,22

Background: On December 20, 1995, the FAA published a series of rulemaking actions which required commuter air carriers who conduct scheduled passenger service in airplanes with 10 or more passenger seats to comply with the same regulations as the major air carriers. Commuter carriers are required to recertify to these higher standards by March 20, 1997. Most of the commuters are expected to meet this compliance date; however, some smaller carriers have identified issues which may delay all or part of their compliance. The FAA will continue to work with the industry to resolve specific issues and meet the "one level of safety" initiative.

We could plan an event highlighting the one level of safety full implementation.

The Presidential Initiative for Increasing Seat Belt Use Nationwide.  
Possible Dates ; Week of March 17

Background: On January 23, 1997 the President directed the Department to report to him within 90 days to increase national safety belt use and to reduce child occupant fatalities. This report should be delivered to the White House by March 14.

The delivery of the report provides an opportunity to amplify the

Presidents safety message.

The Presidential Initiative on Drugs, Driving and Youth.  
Possible Dates: At WH convenience

Background: This initiative was instituted to reduce the incidents of drug use by teens and driving under the influence of drugs, in general. ONDCP and DOT together developed this report to reach the goals stressed by the President. This report was sent to the President on February 23.

The Department has already asked for Presidential participation and we await a response so that we can plan on a public roll-out of this report.

ISTEA Reauthorization Bill Possible Dates: Week of March 10

Background: Saturday, March 8 is the Departments announced deadline for submission of the reauthorization of ISTEA legislation to Congress. DOT, working with other agencies and the White House, has developed a comprehensive proposal that protects the high levels of infrastructure investment achieved under President Clinton and further advances the Administration's goals for: economic and job development; welfare to work; urban revitalization; safety; environmental protection; technology deployment; and common sense government.

We recommend an event with the President, the VP and/or other senior Administration officials. The audience would include transportation, urban, environmental and public interest groups.

We believe Presidential involvement on this issue will amplify the Presidents commitment to infrastructure investment and afford the opportunity to tie transportation directly to the everyday needs of Americans. State and local governments have made passage of reauthorization a high priority.

Depowering of Air Bags: Possible Dates: March 17 or on or before announcement of Rule

Background: The Department intends to issue a final rule allowing auto manufacturers to depower air bags from current levels by March 17 This action follows a proposed rule published on January 6, 1997. The rule will reduce injuries and fatalities that air bags are occasionally inducing to children and primarily small adults. It is part of a comprehensive plan announced by the Department on November 22, 1996 to deal with air bag safety questions. This was also part of the announcement that the President made in his radio address on auto safety December 28, 1996.

AIP Announcements

In addition to the above events, we are anticipating some announcements of Airport Improvement Fund (AIP) grants at White House convenience. While

we do not see a need for a Presidential event, we would like to offer the White House the opportunity to make these announcements via phone calls to the delegations and state officials. Please let us know which announcements you would like to make so that we can schedule the other grant notifications.

Memphis, TN Int'l Airport \$ 9,338,302

Construct runway and taxiways; extend taxiways; improve access road (construct tunnel) and drainage (Phase IV)

Nashville, TN Int'l Airport 1,678,805

Construct water quality and drainage treatment facilities (Phase III)

Covington, TN Municipal 954,000

Improve runway safety area; construct taxiway (Phase II)

State of Illinois Several Airports 8,188,245 (Block Grant)

Various airport development projects at non-primary airports under the State Block Grant Program

Myrtle Beach, SC Int'l Airport 1,452,506

Rehabilitate taxiways

Columbia, SC Metro Airport 1,894,251

Rehabilitate and light runway (Phase II); Construct taxiway

Greer, SC Greenville-Spartenberg 3,591,698

Extend runway (Phase IV)

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan ( CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:03:40.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of June 9, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs ( Cabinet Affairs [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE      June 4, 1997

FROM:            Secretary Slater

SUBJECT:            DOT Weekly Report -- Week of June 9, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

#### KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Secretary Slater Travels to FL:** On June 9, Secretary Slater will present the keynote address at the 15th Annual Lifesavers Traffic Safety Conference in Orlando, FL. Lifesavers, the nations largest, most diverse, and most important annual traffic safety conference, is expected to attract about 1,500 persons from national organization leaders to community workers. On June 10, NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will present awards to recognize outstanding state and community traffic safety leaders. While in FL, Secretary Slater will participate in a seat belt event with children at a local daycare facility.

**Secretary to Travel to San Diego:** On June 14, Secretary Slater will travel to San Diego, CA, to join President Clinton for the Presidents racial unity speech. Leading up to the Presidents speech, the Secretary will be interviewed by The Washington Post on June 5, Ebony on June 6, and National Journal on June 10.

#### White House Briefing on Transportation Research and Technology in NEXTEA:

On June 3, OSTP Director, Dr. Jack Gibbons, Secretary Slater, Deputy Secretary Downey, Mr. Wayne Shackelford, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation, and Mr. Norman Mineta, Senior Vice President and Managing Director, Lockheed Martin IMS, participated in a White House briefing on transportation research and technology initiatives in NEXTEA. Participants showcased transportation technologies and their impact on the quality of life of all Americans, as well as the international economic competitiveness of the United States.

**Suppression and Detection Rulemaking:** FAA is nearing completion on a notice of proposed rulemaking requiring smoke detection and fire

suppression systems be installed within three years in cargo holds of commercial aircraft. The Department is hoping to be ready to post the NPRM next week. This responds to NTSB recommendations and, is related to the ValuJet accident. It will generate press. This is ahead of our schedule.

Anniversary of TWA 800: By early next week, FAA will make available to the public, via the media, information on our aggressive actions since the July 17, 1996, accident. This will include a status report on security actions taken, including specific actions in response to the White House Commission recommendations and also on safety actions taken. FAA plans to identify third parties who would be available for press inquiries on both safety and security issues and will brief Congressional Committees in late June on our actions, along with NTSB and FBI participation. FAA is monitoring the results of the 747 center fuel tank inspections that Boeing is requiring and will take appropriate action if deficiencies are discovered. The study and search for more information on B-747 center fuel tanks is continuing.

Deputy Secretary Receives ITS Award: On June 3, Deputy Secretary Downey received the Intelligent Transportation Society award for his leadership and contributions to the ITS program. On June 4, he addressed the ITS Consortium, ITS Partnership Linkages to the 21st Century.

Highway Safety Week Kickoff: On June 2, Acting FHWA Administrator Jane Garvey kicked off Truck and Bus International Highway Transportation Safety Week with the dedication of a \$1.5 million technology truck and the start of a safety caravan of 10 specially decorated trucks on a tour to educate motorists about sharing the road with large vehicles. She also addressed the Intelligent Transportation Society on June 2.

Final Decision on Air Bag Deactivation to be Announced Soon: In January, NHTSA issued a proposed rule that would make it possible for vehicle owners to have their air bags deactivated by dealers and repair businesses. Although it is believed that progress has been made in educating consumers about how to operate their vehicles to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks associated with air bags, concern about this issue remains high for many consumers. A final decision on this issue will be announced in the near future.

Disadvantaged Business Contracting: On May 30, the Department announced proposed modifications to its disadvantaged business enterprise program in light of a 1995 Supreme Court decision that called for a review of affirmative action programs using race-based classifications.

Kenneth Mead, Dr. T. R. Lakshmanan Confirmed by Senate: On May 23, the U.S. Senate confirmed Kenneth M. Mead as Inspector General and Dr. T. R. Lakshmanan for a second four-year term as director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. They both were sworn in on June 2 by Deputy Secretary Downey.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Aircraft Accident: On June 2, a Coast Guard Auxiliary aircraft, a Grumman Tiger, carrying two Coast Guard auxiliaries crashed in field near Avon Park, FL. Both people were killed. The

aircraft was under Coast Guard orders returning to Sebring, FL, from a Auxiliary training workshop. The crash is being investigated by the NTSB and Coast Guard.

**Rapid Transit Grant:** On May 30, FTA awarded \$28 million to the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District.

**Alaska AIP Grant:** On May 29, Secretary Slater announced the award of \$14.4 million in grants for improvements at six different airports in Alaska.

**Conrail Merger:** Norfolk Southern and CSX Railroads expect to file their application to purchase Conrail on June 16. On May 29, the Surface Transportation Board announced a 350 day procedural schedule which will begin when the parties file their application. FRA will be briefed on the merger by CSX senior management on June 5.

**Louisiana Texaco Pipeline Oil Spill Update:** The scope and volume of cleanup operations in the Lake Barre, LA pipeline spill is decreasing. Skimming and cleanup operations will continue as needed. Texaco reported that over 104,790 gallons, which was nearly 50% of the spill, has been recovered. No significant damage to the surrounding wildlife or environment has been reported.

**United States ex rel. Baggan v. DME Corp., (D.D.C., No. 1:96CV01983):** A former Coast Guard auditor has made various civil fraud allegations against a Coast Guard contractor and a number of individual co-defendants, including former Secretary of Transportation Peña and the Director of the Department's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Luz Hopewell. The auditor generally alleges that Secretary Peña and Ms. Hopewell improperly forced the Coast Guard to reinstate DME Corporation, a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, after the company was terminated for poor performance. These allegations were investigated by the Justice Department who suggested to the District Court that Secretary Peña and Ms. Hopewell should be dismissed from the case and that the accuser should be sanctioned for bringing suit against them. The Court has set these issues for hearing on June 19. An investigation into the auditor's allegations against the company continues.

**NTSB Board Pipeline Inquiry:** On June 2-5, RSPA testified about several pipeline safety issues at a NTSB Board of Inquiry in Carolina, Puerto Rico. Specifically, RSPA provided testimony on state pipeline safety program qualification requirements and oversight procedures, Federal requirements for operator employee selection, training, and testing, Federal requirements for public education and excavation damage prevention efforts, and Federal actions in response to NTSB pipeline safety recommendations. RSPA also provided testimony on its relationship with and evaluations of the Puerto Rico Public Service Commission. This NTSB Board of Inquiry is being held in response to the November 21, 1996 pipeline rupture in San Juan, Puerto Rico that killed 33 people.

**ValuJet Airlines, Inc. (LaGuardia Airport):** On May 2, ValuJet applied for an exemption from the slot restrictions at LaGuardia to the extent necessary to enable it to provide five and a half daily round-trip flights in the Atlanta-LaGuardia Airport market. On May 12, Delta filed an answer

opposing the application. On May 16, the Office of the Queens Borough President, City of New York filed an answer in opposition to the ValuJet application. The Department is evaluating the application.

U.S.-South Africa Third-County Code-Share Services: Four carriers, in conjunction with their code-share partners--United/ Lufthansa, Northwest/KLM, Delta/Swissair, and Continental/Air France--have applied for the two opportunities to serve South Africa under code-share arrangements with third-country carriers effective November 1. An additional carrier may be authorized effective November 1, 1998, and another effective November 1, 1999. Answers to the applications are due June 2 and replies June 9.

Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport: The City of Atlanta is set to name the team to buy land for the fifth runway to be built at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. Business owners in the path of the fifth runway still have unanswered questions, as the City nears the appointment of a land acquisition team to lead an inevitable buyout. October, 1998 is the date set to complete the area buyout. The site, on which most of the residential property has already been acquired through another program, includes nearly 175 businesses.

Atlanta TRACON: The Southern FAA Regional Administrator announced that the site for the Atlanta Large TRACON will be Peachtree City, Georgia.

Grounding of McDonnell Douglas MD-900 Explorer Helicopters: On May 30, FAA issued an airworthiness directive grounding MD-900 Explorer helicopters until further notice. The action was prompted by the discovery of a broken adjustable collective drive link, part of the system which controls the main rotor blades, which could result in loss of control of the helicopter. This is a new helicopter with approximately 40 in service and the impact should be minimal.

Great Lakes Airlines Update: On May 16, after voluntarily suspending service to 80 cities at the request of the FAA, Great Lakes Airlines has been permitted to resume service to eight cities.

Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR) Final Rule: The FAA expects OMB release of the DFDR Final Rule within the next week. The rule addresses several NTSB recommendations and requires DFDRs to have increased numbers of parameters for both older and newly manufactured aircraft.

FAA Data Systems: On May 27, unauthorized attempts were made to remotely access FAA Data Systems located at the Aeronautical Center including records of the Civil Aeromedical Institute. These unsuccessful attempts which originated at Delta Airlines in Atlanta are being investigated by the FAA.

ORIENT 97 Conference; Commandant Meets with Counterdrug Officials: On June 5, in his dual role as United States Interdiction Coordinator and Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Kramek will meet with counterdrug officials from the U. S. and 40 other nations at the ORIENT 97 Conference in Key West, FL. The conference is hosted by the Joint Interagency Task Force East and will assess counterdrug/crime action plan issues raised at

the Presidents May 1997 Caribbean Summit in Barbados.

Maritime Security Program - Lykes Transfer of Contracts/Foreign Interest: Lykes Bros. Steamship Co., Inc. (Lykes) submitted a revised time charter in its application for MARAD approval of a reorganization in bankruptcy and a proposed asset sale and vessel charter to a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific. The revised text is presently under review and a decision is expected within the next week.

Accessibility for Over-the-Road Buses (OTRB): One transportation segment where there are still barriers to full accessibility for those with disabilities is on intercity, over-the-road buses. The Department is reviewing options since the rule will be controversial and the effected parties are polarized. There is the possibility of a June 6 demonstration by Americans Disabled for Public Transportation (ADAPT) to urge DOT to issue OTRB accessibility rules.

Welfare to Work: The hiring process has begun at the Department. Many applicants had skills that qualified them for positions above entry level. The Department is working on a training course on communications that may be appropriate for these employees.

Computer Assisted Passenger Screening Program (CAPS): On May 29, FAA and DOT officials visited Northwest Airlines station at Washington National Airport for a demonstration of the CAPS program in operational use. On June 6, the Department of Transportation's General Counsel and officials from the Department of Justice will get a similar demonstration as a step in the oversight process recommended by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security to ensure that the CAPS program does not infringe on civil liberties.

Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña: In 1995, the Supreme Court held that the use of race-conscious remedial measures in federal government programs was subject to strict scrutiny, that is, to be sustained under the Constitution the government must have a compelling interest in adopting the program, and the program must be narrowly tailored to further that compelling interest. On June 2, 1997, the federal District Court for Colorado issued a decision declaring the FHWA program at issue in this case to be unconstitutional as applied to highway construction in Colorado. The district court found that Congress had a compelling government interest in adopting a race-based program to remedy discrimination in federal construction contracting on a nation-wide basis, but that the statutes and regulations implicated by the subcontracting compensation clause were not sufficiently narrowly tailored because the statutes and regulations were both underinclusive and overinclusive as to the persons who are the intended beneficiaries of the program. We have been working to find ways to more narrowly tailor the programs pertaining to highway and transit construction programs. Last week, prior to the district court decision, the Department of Transportation published a proposed regulation that addresses the narrow tailoring requirements of the Supreme Court's decision in Adarand. We are carefully reviewing the district court's lengthy opinion to determine what other steps to take in response to it. The Department remains committed to fulfilling the President's directive to mend, but not end, affirmative action programs.

Nassif Building Update: The Secretary, Deputy Secretary and all occupants of the tenth floor of the Nassif Building have been relocated to Tech World while the tenth floor is cleaned. The clean up is expected to be completed by July 7. Phone numbers for key personnel have been given to Cabinet Affairs.

## WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

### EXPORTS/TRADE/OPEN ECONOMY

France: The French have agreed to resume aviation negotiations in Paris on July 9-11 looking toward concluding a liberal aviation agreement. While the U.S. is seeking an open-skies aviation agreement phased in over a 3-year period, the French have proposed a 9-year phase culminating in a liberal arrangement for U.S.-France services only.

Africa Initiative: The Department's staff has developed and coordinated with modal transportation experts, near- and longer-term deliverables, for an intensified cooperative relationship with Africa. These deliverables will provide the basis for an integrated and comprehensive Departmental African initiative, that will support the Administration's new Africa trade policy.

### BRIDGE TO ASIA-PACIFIC

New Zealand: At the conclusion of civil aviation negotiations held May 28-29, in Washington, the United States and New Zealand initialed the text of an open-skies aviation agreement. The Department has concluded open-skies agreements with four Asia/Pacific nations--New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, and Brunei.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Transportation Issues: Secretary Slater has invited approximately 125 transportation industry CEOs to join him as part of the U.S. delegation to the second meeting of APEC Transportation Ministers to be held June 23-24 in Victoria, Canada. U.S. industry representatives (nearly 40 have responded positively), will be able to participate in a government -industry symposium to discuss critical transportation issues with the Ministers and to determine future opportunities for public-private cooperation in developing the region's transportation system. A second industry forum will focus on infrastructure development and overcoming barriers to growth in the region.

### PEACE IN REGIONS OF IMPORTANCE, SAFETY

U. S. Coast Guard/Canadian Coast Guard Bring Arabs/Israelis Together for Marine Safety: The Canadian Coast Guard hosted the Maritime Safety Colloquium 97 in Nova Scotia from May 20-24. The U. S. Coast Guard provided expertise on search and rescue and vessel traffic safety focusing on the Middle Eastern maritime region. With the assistance of the U. S. Coast Guard, the 20 participants, 18 Arab, 2 Israeli, developed a search and rescue planning model for the Middle East.

## NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

**Great Lakes Aviation:** On June 5, the House Aviation Subcommittee will hold a hearing on Great Lakes Aviation. Witnesses include FAA accompanied by OST Essential Air Service office and Great Lakes Aviation, and possibly constituents from Rep. LaHood's district who were inconvenienced by the shutdown in operations. Rep. LaHood requested the hearing.

**ATC Modernization:** The Senate Commerce hearing on ATC modernization tentatively scheduled for June 24 may slip to the week of July 7. In addition to current efforts toward modernization, the hearing will also focus on the challenges facing FAA in meeting White House Commission recommendation to accelerate modernization.

**Air Traffic Staffing:** On June 12, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee will hold a hearing on air traffic staffing issues. There will be three panels (only the first two are directly related to the hearing topic): 1. Senator D'Amato, 2. Acting Deputy Administrator Monte Belger and NATCA President Barry Krasner, 3. aviation groups that have complained to Senator Shelby that they have not had an opportunity to testify this year.

**U.S./U.K. Bilateral Negotiations:** On June 4, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing on U.S.-U.K. bilateral negotiations. Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Hunnicutt testified.

**Woodrow Wilson Bridge:** On June 6, the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure will hold a hearing on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The Department will testify.

**U.S./U.K./Japan/France Aviation Negotiations:** On June 11 and June 12, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold hearings on U.S. aviation relations with the U.K., Japan and France. Outside witnesses will testify at the June 11 hearing, and Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify on June 12.

**New York City Air Traffic Control Issues:** On June 12, the Senate Committee on Appropriations will hold a hearing on air traffic control issues for the New York City area. Acting Deputy Federal Aviation Administrator Belger will testify.

**Congestion Mitigation Air Quality:** On June 18, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Health and Environment will hold a hearing on the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program. Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey will testify, along with a representative from the EPA.

**U.S.-Japan Bilateral Negotiations:** On June 24, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation has tentatively scheduled a hearing on U.S.-Japan bilateral negotiations. The Department will testify.

**Market-Based Solutions to Air Service Problems for Medium-Sized Communities:** On June 25, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on market-based solutions to

air service problems for medium-sized communities. The Department will be invited to testify.

National Airway System Modernization: On July 7, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on national airway system modernization.

#### Secretary's Schedule

June 9

The Secretary will travel to Orlando, FL to address the Lifesavers Traffic Safety Conference.

June 14

The Secretary will travel to San Diego with the President.

#### The Deputy Secretary

June 10

The Deputy Secretary will make remarks at TRB's "National Conference on Critical Issues for the Future of Intercity Passenger Rail in Washington, DC.

June 13-14

The Deputy Secretary will participate in TRB Executive Committee Meetings in Woods Hole, MA.

June 23

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the Intelligent Transportation Society of NYS's Annual Conference in Cooperstown, NY.

#### Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

June 8

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Safe Communities Best Practices Conference in Orlando, FL.

June 8-9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will address the FRA employees at the final Multi-Regional Conference in Sacramento, CA.

June 8-11

OSDBU Director Hopewell will participate in the 1997 Airport Business Diversity Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

June 9

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Sacramento, CA, to address the third and final FRA multi-regional conference.

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the APTA Rail conference in Washington, DC.

Governmental Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary Horsley will address the

City Commissioners Association of Ohio in Akron, OH.

June 9-10

FHWA Executive Director Kane will speak at the NASTO meeting in Quebec City.

June 9-11

BTS Director Lakshmanan will participate in a conference on Strategic Uses of Information Technologies in the Public Sector at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, MA.

June 9-13

Maritime Administrator Herberger will attend and speak at the NOR-Shipping 97 Maritime Exposition in Oslo, Norway.

June 10

NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at Lifesavers 15: National Conference on Highway Safety Practices, in Orlando, FL.

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the opening ceremony for the Center for Marine Education in Paducah, KY.

FRA Administrator Molitoris and Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will attend the National Conference for the Future of Intercity Passenger Rail cosponsored by the TRB, FRA and Amtrak. The Administrator will also meet with the Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Providence, RI to meet with the Governor and a Congressional Delegation to discuss increased Amtrak services and freight railroads. Administrator Molitoris will then travel to Warwick, RI, to meet with city officials to discuss and tour the site of a potential new rail station near T.R. Green Airport.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will attend the launching ceremony of the Mashantucket-Pequot nations high speed ferry which will inaugurate service between Manhattan and New London, CT.

June 11

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the opening of the Fourteenth Annual Engineers Meeting in Washington, D.C.

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Ocean Principals Luncheon Meeting at Coast Guard Headquarters.

June 12

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the annual meeting of Trial Attorneys of America in Chicago, IL.

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify before the House Subcommittee on Aviation. The focus being on international aviation relations with France, the U.K. and Japan.

RSPA Administrator Sharma will visit the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA.

June 12-13

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will participate in SLSDC Strategic Planning Retreat in Williamsburg, VA.

June 13

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the Transportation Research Boards annual meeting in Woods Hole, MA.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Munster, IN, to be the featured speaker at the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Indiana High Speed Rail Association.

June 13-14

FHWA Acting Administrator Garvey and BTS Director Lakshmanan will attend the National Research Council, Transportation Research Board Executive Committee Meeting in Woods Hole, MA.

June 15-18

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will speak at the Paris Air Show in Paris, France.

June 16-17

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Minneapolis, MN, to participate in the Small Railroads in the Non Urban Economy -- A Partnership conference.

June 17

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the DOT-sponsored program honoring Alex Haley and the 20th anniversary of Roots.

BTS Director Lakshmanan will speak at the International Road Federation in Ontario, Canada.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will address the Conference of Minority Transportation officials in Washington, DC.

June 18

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the National Emergency Number Association Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD.

FTA Administrator Linton will delivery the keynote address at a COMTO conference in Atlanta, GA.

June 19

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the Annual Automotive Litigation Conference in Arlington, VA.

June 20

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy change of command.

June 21

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will represent the Department at a pre-ministerial APEC Senior Officials meeting in Victoria, Canada.

June 22-25

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will participate in the APEC meeting in Victoria, British Columbia.

June 23

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Kruesi will be the keynote speaker at the 68th annual meeting of the Association for Transportation Law, Logistics and Policy in Santa Fe, NM.

June 24

FTA Administrator Linton will participate in a Welfare to Work Workshop in Boston, MA.

June 24-25

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the CINCs Conference at the Pentagon.

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit Boeing in Seattle, WA.

June 26

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the retirement ceremony for Rear Admiral Donnell in Yorktown, VA.

Governmental Affairs Assistant Secretary Palmer will attend the Grand Opening Ribboncutting at the Austin/Bergstrom International Airport in Austin, TX.

FTA Administrator Linton will deliver the keynote address at the Project Action Conference in Pittsburgh.

June 27

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at an Urban Impact, Inc. luncheon in Birmingham, AL.

June 27-28

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the change of command for the Commander, First Coast Guard District, and the Navy League National Convention in Boston, MA.

July 6-14

USCG Admiral Kramek will meet with Federal Border Service leaders in Russia.

July 10

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit Piper Aircraft in Vero Beach, FL.

July 12-19

USCG VADM Herr will attend meetings with the International Maritime Organization in London.

July 22

USCG Admiral Kramek will address the Master Pilot Information Exchange Workshop in Crystal City.

July 23

USCG Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Naval Officers Association meeting in Annapolis, MD.

July 24

USCG Admiral Kramek will address flag and general officers from all services participating in the CAPSTONE program.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Senior Advisory Group/Quality Council meeting with senior Coast Guard flag officers.

July 27

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will participate in San Francisco Giants Traffic Safety Day, San Francisco, CA.

July 29

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Congressional Coast Guard Birthday Celebration at the Rayburn Building.

July 30-August 3

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will attend events at the annual Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI.

August 3-6

BTS Director Lakshmanan will participate in the 67th Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

August 28

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will be the guest speaker at the Grand Military Ball for the Chief Petty Officers Association National Convention in Cleveland, OH.

#### Media Inquiries

The Atlanta Constitution called for NEXTEA apportionment figures as well as numbers from the other major proposals. FHWA provided the fact sheet showing totals for the proposals (May 28).

The Richmond Times-Dispatch called about construction of toll roads through public-private partnerships. FHWA provided some background and additional information sources (May 27).

Associated Press requested a copy of OIGs current semiannual report to Congress.

The Washington Post requested general information on MARAD.

Journal of Commerce requested a copy of OIGs current semiannual report to Congress.

San Francisco Chronicle requested information on an ongoing OIG audit of FAAs ground radar program currently being conducted.

Various international/national: Canadas seizure of 4 U. S. fishing boats gained worldwide attention in all major news mediums.

Channel 7 T.V. Miami: Requested information on the Coast Guard action concerning a homosexual enlisted person being considered for separation from the service. The enlisted person and his acquaintance were interviewed by Channel 7 week of 26 May.

Passageway Magazine: Requested information on Coast Guard boarding statistics and the authority to board pleasure boats.

CNN is requesting an interview with NHTSA Administrator Martinez for a segment on airbags and the merits of allowing people to disconnect their airbags. The show should air in about two weeks.

The Washington Post is preparing an article on the Maritime Security Program, focusing on Senator Lotts support for the MSP and for the maritime industry.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will be interviewed June 4 by The Washington Post on SLSDCs plans to become a Performance Based Organization.

The New York Times plans to write a story on alleged predatory pricing in the airline industry.

USA Today is preparing a story on unruly passengers. The FAA associate administrator for civil aviation security will be interviewed May 28. Publication date unknown.

## FOIA REQUESTS

January 5, 1997, voice tape recording from NWA Flight 941 where pilots were illuminated by a laser beam while flying over a laser show in Tunica, Mississippi -- American Journal

May, June and/or July 1996 correspondence regarding Great Lakes Airlines and Great Lakes Aircraft #292 -- WICS-TV 20, Springfield, Illinois

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Point of Contact: For the weekend of June 7-8, Jackie Lowey will be the contact. She can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.