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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 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 AMTRAK's Metroliner as he rode from Baltimore, accompanied by AMTRAK President Tom Downs, to Washington's 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.

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: 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 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 DOTs 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.

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The New York Times has filed FOIA request regarding \$450,000 fine against USAir. The Times received background interview with FAAs 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.

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READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE March 6, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of March 10, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Secretary Slater Joins President to Inspect Arkansas: On March 4, President Clinton traveled to AR after declaring the worst affected parts of the state a disaster area. Already in AR, Secretary Slater and FEMA Director James Lee Witt met with the President and toured the devastated communities.

Secretary Travels to Selma: On March 9, Secretary Slater will travel to Selma, AL, to participate in the Voting Rights March Jubilee Celebration. Secretary Slater will make remarks concerning the Selma-Montgomery National Historical Trail/All American Highway, designated earlier this year under a MOU signed by DOT and DOI.

Secretary Honors Rosa Parks: On March 12, Secretary Slater will attend and join Reverend Joseph Lowery to make brief remarks at an APTA event in Washington, DC. which will honor Rosa Parks. Mrs. Parks will be presented the Associations first ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

Secretary Slater to meet with National League of Cities: On March 10, Secretary Slater will participate on a panel to discuss, Federalism in Transition. Senator Kempthorne and Congressman Moran are the other panelists.

ISTEA Reauthorization: Secretary Slater is preparing a roll out of the Administrations ISTEA Reauthorization proposal. The title for the bill is NEXTEA (National Economic Crossroads Efficiency Act). The roll out will likely include a trade press brief at the Department on March 12, a briefing for DOT Stakeholders on March 13, and a 1 day amplification trip by Secretary Slater on March 14 to a city to be determined.

Minor Accident at Cleveland Airport: On March 5, an American Airlines

MD-80 landed at Cleveland Hopkins Airport and skidded off the runway. During the skid, the right landing gear collapsed and fuel was spilled from the right wing. Passengers were evacuated via the emergency exit slides and there were three minor injuries in the course of the evacuation. The weather was bad at the time of the incident, and may have been a factor. The FAA is working with the NTSB to determine the cause of this accident.

National Civil Aviation Review Commission Announcement: Early next week, Secretary Slater will likely announce the members of the National Civil Aviation Review Commission. This commission was established by Congress in legislation last year and is charged with reviewing FAA financing and safety.

Damage Widespread Throughout Storm Area: Tornadoes and widespread flooding have caused extensive damage throughout the AR, OH, KY, TN and WV areas. There have been interruptions to all modes of transportation in the effected areas. Current high water levels have prevented damage assessment, but initial ER estimates for KY and OH are \$15 million and are expected to increase after the water has receded and the extent of the damage is known. The current FHWA unallocated balance of ER funds is about \$3 million. FHWA has an additional request from CA and WA for an additional \$75 million allocation due to flooding, but has not been processed due to lack of funds. Coast Guard active, reserve, and auxiliary units in the Ohio and Illinois River regions continues to support state and local officials with flood relief coordination and rescue operations. Through March 5, Coast Guard personnel had rescued or assisted 126 people. Four Coast Guard helicopters were being deployed for aerial evacuations, urgent medical care support, and assistance to emergency authorities. Coast Guard operations are being directed from Louisville, KY, Huntington, WV, Paducah, KY, Pittsburgh, PA and St. Louis, MO.

Task Force to Assist Families in Aviation Disasters: On March 5, Secretary Slater announced the formation of a Task Force to assist families whose members are involved in aviation accidents. The task force was mandated by the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996, and is required to submit recommendations concerning treatment of families by the media and legal communities by August 9.

FHWA Gives Tennessee \$1 Million to Develop Traffic Management System: On February 28, Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey announced the award of \$1 million to the State of TN to study and develop a conceptual plan for a comprehensive parking and traffic management system in Nashville.

Conrail Merger: Meetings between CSX and Norfolk Southern over how to divide up Conrail have produced an agreement that CSX will acquire Conrail and divest roughly half of it to Norfolk Southern, including tracks from the South and Midwest into New York City, and perhaps other Northeast points currently served only by Conrail. The Conrail board of directors met March 3 to approve the agreement, which would have CSX increase its tender offer to \$115 per share, identical to Norfolk Southern's offer. CSX Chairman John Snow is scheduled to meet with Secretary Slater on March 7, with this issue on the agenda.

American Airlines vs. Allied Pilots Association (APA) : The Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) appointed by the President on February 15, continues with negotiations with both parties. On February 27 and March 3 the APA met with the PEB; American met with the PEB on February 28 and March 4. Rebuttals were March 5. PEB's recommendation is expected March 17. The APA board will then decide whether to send the recommendation on to its members for a ratification vote.

Commercial Aviation Forecast Conference: On March 5, the Deputy Secretary addressed the 22nd Annual FAA Commercial Aviation Forecast Conference at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. Over 400 people attended.

Domestic Passenger Manifest Rulemaking: The Department will issue an ANPRM to determine what, if any, requirements should be placed on airline's passenger manifests. This rule was recommended by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. The ANPRM is expected to be published by March 12, 1997 -- the one-month anniversary of the Final Report of the Commission.

Safety Recommendations to Colonial Pipeline Company: On February 25, RSPA Administrator Sharma announced a series of recommendations to improve safety and protect the environment along the Colonial Pipeline System. After a June 26 rupture of one of Colonials main lines near Simpsonville, SC, RSPA ordered a departmental task force to conduct a comprehensive review of Colonials operations, maintenance and training programs.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Children's Health

Children's Environmental Health and Safety Initiative: The Department provided HHS with a statement on environmental hazards children face as travelers, pedestrians, and bicyclists linked to injuries and deaths from transportation-related accidents. This interagency committee will coordinate and raise child health/safety protection to a top-level priority, and ensure responses to a pending Executive Order. It will issue a report in six months on agency child project inventories and develop policy recommendations on special environmental needs of children.

Welfare to Work

Access to Jobs Initiative: On March 11, the FTA Administrator will meet with Central Ohio transit Authority (COTA) of Columbus, OH. The COTA will provide the FTA Administrator with an update on the current Columbus Livable Communities project, a transit center with a park-and-ride lot, transit customer service center, job bank and child care facility. This project is related to the Presidents Access to Jobs and Training initiative included in the Fiscal Year 1998 budget submission.

Reinvention

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA): The March 3, issue of U.S. News and World Report spotlighted the Coast Guards success with GPRA in

reducing the fatality rate in tug accidents by 2/3 over the past 5 years; from 91 to 27. The article noted that the Coast Guard isolated human error and training as the main factors in high death rates, and worked with industry to reverse those problems.

Bridge to Asia-Pacific

U.S.-Taiwan Open Skies Aviation Agreement: The American Institute in Taiwan and the Daipei Economic Cultural Representative Office, February 28, reached agreement on the text of an open skies aviation regime to permit the airlines of Taiwan and the United States to operate U.S.-Taiwan air services without restriction. The agreement is similar to those signed by the United States with 12 European countries.

Japan: High-level exploratory talks aimed at determining whether a basis exists for resuming passenger negotiations are now taking place in Washington.

Science and New Technology

FAA Web Site: On February 28, the FAA announced improvements to its web site to permit the public to more easily obtain information about airline safety. In the coming weeks, airline activity information, quarterly summaries of civil fines, statistics on near mid-air collisions and basic information on U.S. carriers will be added.

Volpe National Transportation Systems Center Congressional Showcase: On March 10, RSPAs Volpe National Transportation Systems Center will showcase state-of-the-art transportation technologies on Capitol Hill. In addition to the anticipated attendance of many congressional staffers, Secretary Slater has issued an invitation to all Members of Congress to attend the event.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security: On March 5, the Departments General Counsel, Nancy E. McFadden, and FAA Acting Administrator Barry Valentine appeared before the Aviation Subcommittee (Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee) and set out the Administrations strong commitment to implementation of the Final Report of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. The adequacy of budgetary resources to fund implementation was a major focus of the hearing.

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

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:17:22.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of March 10, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE March 6, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of March 10, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Secretary Slater Joins President to Inspect Arkansas: On March 4, President Clinton traveled to AR after declaring the worst affected parts of the state a disaster area. Already in AR, Secretary Slater and FEMA Director James Lee Witt met with the President and toured the devastated communities.

Secretary Travels to Selma: On March 9, Secretary Slater will travel to Selma, AL, to participate in the Voting Rights March Jubilee Celebration. Secretary Slater will make remarks concerning the Selma-Montgomery National Historical Trail/All American Highway, designated earlier this year under a MOU signed by DOT and DOI.

Secretary Honors Rosa Parks: On March 12, Secretary Slater will attend and join Reverend Joseph Lowery to make brief remarks at an APTA event in Washington, DC. which will honor Rosa Parks. Mrs. Parks will be presented the Associations first ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

Secretary Slater to meet with National League of Cities: On March 10, Secretary Slater will participate on a panel to discuss, Federalism in Transition. Senator Kempthorne and Congressman Moran are the other panelists.

ISTEA Reauthorization: Secretary Slater is preparing a roll out of the Administrations ISTEA Reauthorization proposal. The title for the bill is NEXTEA (National Economic Crossroads Efficiency Act). The roll out will likely include a trade press brief at the Department on March 12, a briefing for DOT Stakeholders on March 13, and a 1 day amplification trip by Secretary Slater on March 14 to a city to be determined.

Minor Accident at Cleveland Airport: On March 5, an American Airlines

MD-80 landed at Cleveland Hopkins Airport and skidded off the runway. During the skid, the right landing gear collapsed and fuel was spilled from the right wing. Passengers were evacuated via the emergency exit slides and there were three minor injuries in the course of the evacuation. The weather was bad at the time of the incident, and may have been a factor. The FAA is working with the NTSB to determine the cause of this accident.

National Civil Aviation Review Commission Announcement: Early next week, Secretary Slater will likely announce the members of the National Civil Aviation Review Commission. This commission was established by Congress in legislation last year and is charged with reviewing FAA financing and safety.

Damage Widespread Throughout Storm Area: Tornadoes and widespread flooding have caused extensive damage throughout the AR, OH, KY, TN and WV areas. There have been interruptions to all modes of transportation in the effected areas. Current high water levels have prevented damage assessment, but initial ER estimates for KY and OH are \$15 million and are expected to increase after the water has receded and the extent of the damage is known. The current FHWA unallocated balance of ER funds is about \$3 million. FHWA has an additional request from CA and WA for an additional \$75 million allocation due to flooding, but has not been processed due to lack of funds. Coast Guard active, reserve, and auxiliary units in the Ohio and Illinois River regions continues to support state and local officials with flood relief coordination and rescue operations. Through March 5, Coast Guard personnel had rescued or assisted 126 people. Four Coast Guard helicopters were being deployed for aerial evacuations, urgent medical care support, and assistance to emergency authorities. Coast Guard operations are being directed from Louisville, KY, Huntington, WV, Paducah, KY, Pittsburgh, PA and St. Louis, MO.

Task Force to Assist Families in Aviation Disasters: On March 5, Secretary Slater announced the formation of a Task Force to assist families whose members are involved in aviation accidents. The task force was mandated by the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996, and is required to submit recommendations concerning treatment of families by the media and legal communities by August 9.

FHWA Gives Tennessee \$1 Million to Develop Traffic Management System: On February 28, Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey announced the award of \$1 million to the State of TN to study and develop a conceptual plan for a comprehensive parking and traffic management system in Nashville.

Conrail Merger: Meetings between CSX and Norfolk Southern over how to divide up Conrail have produced an agreement that CSX will acquire Conrail and divest roughly half of it to Norfolk Southern, including tracks from the South and Midwest into New York City, and perhaps other Northeast points currently served only by Conrail. The Conrail board of directors met March 3 to approve the agreement, which would have CSX increase its tender offer to \$115 per share, identical to Norfolk Southern's offer. CSX Chairman John Snow is scheduled to meet with Secretary Slater on March 7, with this issue on the agenda.

American Airlines vs. Allied Pilots Association (APA) : The Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) appointed by the President on February 15, continues with negotiations with both parties. On February 27 and March 3 the APA met with the PEB; American met with the PEB on February 28 and March 4. Rebuttals were March 5. PEB's recommendation is expected March 17. The APA board will then decide whether to send the recommendation on to its members for a ratification vote.

Commercial Aviation Forecast Conference: On March 5, the Deputy Secretary addressed the 22nd Annual FAA Commercial Aviation Forecast Conference at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. Over 400 people attended.

Domestic Passenger Manifest Rulemaking: The Department will issue an ANPRM to determine what, if any, requirements should be placed on airline's passenger manifests. This rule was recommended by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. The ANPRM is expected to be published by March 12, 1997 -- the one-month anniversary of the Final Report of the Commission.

Safety Recommendations to Colonial Pipeline Company: On February 25, RSPA Administrator Sharma announced a series of recommendations to improve safety and protect the environment along the Colonial Pipeline System. After a June 26 rupture of one of Colonials main lines near Simpsonville, SC, RSPA ordered a departmental task force to conduct a comprehensive review of Colonials operations, maintenance and training programs.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Children's Health

Children's Environmental Health and Safety Initiative: The Department provided HHS with a statement on environmental hazards children face as travelers, pedestrians, and bicyclists linked to injuries and deaths from transportation-related accidents. This interagency committee will coordinate and raise child health/safety protection to a top-level priority, and ensure responses to a pending Executive Order. It will issue a report in six months on agency child project inventories and develop policy recommendations on special environmental needs of children.

Welfare to Work

Access to Jobs Initiative: On March 11, the FTA Administrator will meet with Central Ohio transit Authority (COTA) of Columbus, OH. The COTA will provide the FTA Administrator with an update on the current Columbus Livable Communities project, a transit center with a park-and-ride lot, transit customer service center, job bank and child care facility. This project is related to the Presidents Access to Jobs and Training initiative included in the Fiscal Year 1998 budget submission.

Reinvention

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA): The March 3, issue of U.S. News and World Report spotlighted the Coast Guards success with GPRA in

reducing the fatality rate in tug accidents by 2/3 over the past 5 years; from 91 to 27. The article noted that the Coast Guard isolated human error and training as the main factors in high death rates, and worked with industry to reverse those problems.

Bridge to Asia-Pacific

U.S.-Taiwan Open Skies Aviation Agreement: The American Institute in Taiwan and the Daipei Economic Cultural Representative Office, February 28, reached agreement on the text of an open skies aviation regime to permit the airlines of Taiwan and the United States to operate U.S.-Taiwan air services without restriction. The agreement is similar to those signed by the United States with 12 European countries.

Japan: High-level exploratory talks aimed at determining whether a basis exists for resuming passenger negotiations are now taking place in Washington.

Science and New Technology

FAA Web Site: On February 28, the FAA announced improvements to its web site to permit the public to more easily obtain information about airline safety. In the coming weeks, airline activity information, quarterly summaries of civil fines, statistics on near mid-air collisions and basic information on U.S. carriers will be added.

Volpe National Transportation Systems Center Congressional Showcase: On March 10, RSPAs Volpe National Transportation Systems Center will showcase state-of-the-art transportation technologies on Capitol Hill. In addition to the anticipated attendance of many congressional staffers, Secretary Slater has issued an invitation to all Members of Congress to attend the event.

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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 May 5, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE April 30, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of May 5, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

District of Columbia Primary Seat Belt Law Breakfast: On April 30, the DC Buckle-up Coalition hosted a breakfast to recognize the hard work of the many individuals who contributed to the passage of a primary seat belt law in DC. Secretary Slater and DC Chief of Police, Larry Soulsby, were the honorary co-chairs of the event. The Secretary was presented with an honorary award from the D.C. Metro Police.

Smooth Operator Event: On April 29, Secretary Slater and Administrator Martinez participated in the press event to announce the Smooth Operator Program being conducted in the Greater Washington area. This event was held on the George Washington Parkway, the site of a major traffic crash attributed to aggressive driving. It was attended by all participating law enforcement agencies, Virginia State Police, Fairfax County Police, Arlington County Police, Alexandria City Police, Prince William County Police, Maryland State Police, Prince Georges County Police, Montgomery County Police, Metropolitan Police Department, U. S. Park Police, and the U. S. Capitol Police, and by relatives of the George Washington Parkway crash victim. There was heavy media coverage of the event.

Secretary and Deputy Secretary to attend NY Building Congress: On May 2, Secretary Slater and Deputy Secretary Downey will travel to NYC to attend the NY Building Congress, which is an umbrella organization of unions, developers, contractors, and transportation interests from CT, NY, and NJ. The event will honor Senator Moynihan and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and is expected to be attended by 2,500 people.

Secretary to Attend Binational Conference in Mexico: From May 4-7, Secretary Slater will travel to Mexico as part of the U.S. Delegation participating in the Binational Conference.

Visit of Mexican Transport Secretary Ruiz: On April 30, the Mexican Secretary of Transportation and Communications Ruiz met with Secretary Slater to discuss NAFTA implementation issues and preparations for the following week's Binational Commission meeting in Mexico City.

Meeting With Polish Minister of Transport: On April 30, Secretary Slater delivered the keynote remarks at a luncheon, in honor of Polish Minister of Transport Boguslaw Liberadzki, at the Mayflower Hotel. Minister Liberadzki is in the United States, at the invitation of the Trade and Development Agency, to present U.S. companies with an overview of Poland and insight into business opportunities in the transportation sector in Poland. Deputy Secretary Downey also will attend a breakfast meeting with the Minister, on April 30, and deliver opening remarks before U.S. and Polish businessmen.

Meeting With Romanian Minister of Transport: On May 1, Secretary Slater is scheduled to meet with Romanian Minister of Transport Train Basescu in Washington for discussions of privatization. Minister Basescu is in the United States to view the rail system and to seek U.S. assistance in privatizing the Romanian transport sector.

Meeting With Danish Minister of Business and Trade: On May 8, Secretary Slater is scheduled to meet with Danish Minister of Business and Trade Jan Troejborg for discussions on the prospects for U.S. ratification of the OECD Shipbuilding Agreement.

FAA to Purchase Security Equipment for Airports: In response to White House and Congressional direction to deploy explosives detection systems at the nations largest airports, the FAA will announce later this week its purchase of an additional \$12.2 million worth of trace detection security equipment. Over the next 2 years, the FAA anticipates purchasing over 500 trace detection systems from companies on the approved vendors list. In its September 1996 interim report, the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security recommended the federal government purchase significant numbers of computed tomography and trace detection systems, advanced technology X-rays and other innovative explosives detection systems. Congress allocated \$144 million in the FAAs 1997 fiscal year budget for this purpose and the FAA formed an integrated product team to plan, purchase and install the sophisticated equipment at the nations airports.

Task Force on Family Assistance: On April 28, the Department hosted a session of the Task Force on the Assistance to Families of Aviation Disasters. The session, co-chaired by General Counsel, Nancy McFadden, and NTSB Chairman, Jim Hall, was held to provide staff briefings to the Task Force members on issues to be addressed by the Task Force. The Task Force report to Congress is due October 9.

U.S. Dominican Republic Open Skies: The Dominican Republic has agreed to an open skies agreement with the United States to be effective December 31, 1997. The Dominican Republic is currently rated Category III by the FAA with respect to compliance with international safety standards which means that Dominican Republic airlines may not operate their own aircraft

in the U.S.

ICAO Legal Committee Meeting on the Warsaw Convention: The Legal Committee of ICAO is meeting in Montreal for 2 weeks beginning April 28. Those countries attending will be working to achieve a recommendation for a replacement agreement to the Warsaw Convention concerning the liability of airlines after a disaster. The Department and the U.S. have taken the lead to increase the amounts available to compensate victims of these disasters and to enable U.S. citizens to bring suit in U.S. courts. The Assistant General Counsel for International Law will be leading the U.S. delegation to the meeting.

Panel on Passenger Misconduct: On April 30, the General Counsel, Nancy McFadden, served on a panel during a conference hosted by the Airline Pilots Association concerning the prosecution of passengers of airlines who interfere with crew members during flight. Increased prosecution of such passengers is a recommendation contained in the final report of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security.

National Civil Aviation Review Commission (NCARC): On April 28-29, NCARC held its first meeting at the FAA. Members will hear overviews of the budget issues confronting FAA and proposals to allocate costs to users of FAA services. Speakers were from FAA, Congress, and industry. Secretary Slater addressed the Commission on April 28th.

France: On April 22-24, in Washington, aviation negotiations with France took place to discuss the French proposal for a phased agreement, culminating in a liberal arrangement for 3rd-4th Freedom services. After a day of exploring the French proposal, the U.S. delegation tabled a counterproposal that offered to place limitations on U.S. frequencies for combination services during a 3-year phase, that would end in an "Open-Skies" aviation regime. The French expressed disappointment with the U.S. proposal and noted that a substantial gap existed between the respective proposals. The French have elections coming up in late May and early June and noted that they could not agree to the next round until the outcome of the elections is known.

Ukraine: Negotiations are scheduled for May 1-2, in Washington. Previous negotiations resulted in agreement on most of the text of an aviation bilateral, but many major issues remain.

Motor Vehicle Recalls. During the first quarter of calendar year 1997, NHTSA was notified by vehicle manufacturers of 50 recalls involving 2.1 million vehicles. Of these, 39 recalls, involving 2 million vehicles, were for defects, with the remainder for non-compliances with Federal motor vehicle safety standards. The agency was notified of an additional 8 recalls during this period involving 1.5 million items of motor vehicle equipment.

Second Seizure for Operation GULF SHIELD: On April 22, Coast Guard and Customs forces seized 1,142 lbs. of marijuana delivered by a Mexican fast boat, lancha, to Boca Chica Beach, TX. No arrests were made.

Cutter Stops Cocaine Boat-Seizes Almost 2 Tons: On April 22, the Cutter

SPENCER and its helicopter pursued a fast boat off the Honduran coast and recovered 3,905 lbs. of cocaine dumped overboard by the boat before it entered Honduran waters.

Operation FRONTIER SHIELD Success: The Coast Guard will continue Operation FRONTIER SHIELD throughout FY 97 due to its success in disrupting drug trafficking in the Eastern Caribbean. Since FRONTIER SHIELD began on October 1, 1996, forces have disrupted 64 percent of known smuggling events in that area, interdicted 13 vessels, arrested 37 suspected smugglers, and seized a total of 22,000 lbs. of illegal drugs, cocaine and marijuana, with an estimated street value of nearly \$800 million.

Oil Rig Capsizes off LA: On April 27, a jack-up rig, an offshore platform with deployable pilings, capsized near the mouth of the Mississippi River in the Gulf of Mexico. All 47 crewmembers were rescued and no significant pollution has been reported.

Operating-Differential Subsidy (ODS)/Maritime Security Program (MSP): Neptune Orient Lines, an international ocean carrier based in Singapore, announced plans to purchase all of the outstanding stock of American President Lines, Ltd. (APL), a public company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. APL operates 8 U.S.-flag vessels under ODS due to expire on December 31, 1997, charters space on the eastbound leg of non-subsidized U.S.-flag vessels operated by Matson Navigation Company in transpacific trade, and holds operating agreements for 9 vessels under MSP. It is not yet known how APL plans to structure an arrangement to meet the ODS and MSP U.S. citizenship requirements.

U.S./China Maritime Issues: On April 21, a meeting was held at the request of the Chinese Embassy for a delegation led by Mr. Wei, the General Director of the Department of Transportation and Coordination, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, to discuss U.S. shipping policy and regulation of freight forwarding activities in the United States. The meeting provided the opportunity for MARAD to raise U.S. concerns about problems U.S. carriers face in providing shipping services in China and to mention that a delegation led by MARAD was planning to visit China to discuss bilateral shipping issues.

Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH (ECD) Helicopter AD: On April 25, the FAA issued an AD requiring operators of several models of ECD helicopters to inspect the tail booms for cracks before the helicopters are permitted to fly. The AD is prompted by a recent accident involving an ECD Model MBB-BK117 series helicopter in New York City. The investigation of the accident revealed that the tail boom, which holds the stabilizing rotor, broke off. Further inspection of 3 same design helicopters found similar cracks. When this was learned, the manufacturer and American distributor immediately sent out alert notices to all operators of these types of aircraft.

Boeing 777 Engine Fire Switches AD: Later this week, the FAA plans to issue an AD to require the operators of Boeing 777 to perform functional checks of the engine fire switches. United Airlines recently found a fire switch with a seized manual override button which would prevent the fire switch unlocking in the case of an engine fire. The cause of the

seized button has been isolated and the functional check will determine the need for replacement. It should be noted that even with a failed fire switch the normal engine fire procedures would still allow engine shutdown and isolation from the engine area. All 57 B777s are affected.

Grand Canyon Routes: The week of April 28, FAA will issue during two rulemaking packages dealing with the Grand Canyon. These packages include a NPRM to allow 2 air-tour corridors through Grand Canyon Flight Fee Zones, including incentive routes for noise efficient aircraft, and a notice of availability of proposed commercial air-tour route charts for the Grand Canyon National Park.

Innovations in American Government Awards: FAAs Personnel & Acquisition Reform has been selected as a semifinalist for the 1997 Innovations in American Government Awards. Innovations Awards recognize programs and policies that represent original and effective government efforts. The 100 semifinalists were selected from the 1,550 applications. The very prestigious award is sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Meetings With the Mexican Navy: In support of the Presidents National Drug Control Strategy and his forthcoming trip to Mexico, the Coast Guard continues its efforts to enhance the effectiveness of U.S.-Mexican maritime counterdrug operations. These initiatives are being conducted under the aegis of General McCaffreys contact group for Mexico. On April 23, the Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Operations, RADM Saunders, and other Coast Guard representatives met with Admiral Nunez, Mexican Navy Chief of Staff, to discuss maritime counterdrug operations and future initiatives with the Mexican Navy. Also, Coast Guard representatives met with Mexican Navy officials in Mexico City to develop tactical law enforcement communications procedures. These procedures will enhance the responsiveness of both US and Mexican maritime counterdrug forces in coastal areas.

Canadian NEXTEA Briefing: Departmental representatives briefed Transport Canada representatives on the international trade and border crossing aspects of NEXTEA. Two aspects of NEXTEA interested the Canadian delegation: (1) criteria for grant awards and the possibility that these criteria may impose/imply any requirements for Canada, and (2) relationships among the Federal, state, local, and regional governments that may provide information that could be applied to the continuing evolution of Canadian national-provincial relationships in the transport area.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Welfare to Work

New Jersey Transit Association Meeting Addresses Welfare Reform: On April 15-17, the New Jersey Transit Association, at its annual meeting in Atlantic City, specifically addressed welfare reform. The New Jersey DOT and the Department of Human Resources jointly sponsored this meeting and local and county transportation and human service agencies attended.

Breakout sessions allowed participants to discuss welfare reform issues and strategies. FTA staff made a presentation on FTAs Access to Jobs and Training legislative proposal and other FTA activities.

Exports/Trade/Open Economy

Implementation of NAFTA's Transportation Provisions: The Department continued discussions with the NEC and other interested agencies to develop a strategy for implementing the transportation provision of NAFTA, including access to the U.S. border states for Mexican trucks, investment by Mexican nationals in U.S.-based motor carriers, access to the U.S. for Mexican regular route cross-border buses, and several "doing-business" issues--Mexico's treatment of small-package delivery companies, investments by U.S. companies in Mexican motor carriers, and increased access to Mexico for 53-ft. trailers. Mexico's Secretariat for Transportation and Communications (SCT) and the Department exchanged comments on a draft Memorandum of Consultations (MOC) April 9 and 10, regarding the range of transportation issues under consideration. The process of reaching final agreement on the MOC's provisions, however, remains ongoing.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

One Year After ValuJet: Cargo Fire Response Issues: 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. The FAA is expected to testify.

NEXTEA Safety Hearing Scheduled for May 1: On May 1, the Secretary will testify on the safety provisions in NEXTEA and DOT's proposed Surface Transportation Safety Act of 1997, before the full Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Commercial Space Authorization: On April 24, the House passed H.R. 1275, the Civil Space Authorization Act, by voice vote. The Act contains a two year authorization of the commercial space program. No amendments affecting the commercial space program were offered.

FAA Research and Development Authorization: On April 30, House floor action is expected on H.R. 1271, legislation authorizing \$672m in the next 3 years for FAA research, engineering and development programs. The legislation was approved by the House Science Committee on April 16.

FY97 Appropriations Supplemental: House floor action is possible this week on the \$8.4 billion supplemental appropriations measure which was approved by the House Appropriations Committee on April 24.

Airbags, Seats Belts, Child Restraints and Child Safety: On April 28, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance held a hearing to discuss public awareness of airbags, seat belts, child restraints and child safety. Other witnesses included representatives from the Big 3" auto manufacturers and consumer groups. NHTSA

Administrator Ricardo Martinez testified.

Current Status of Airbags: On April 29, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a hearing to discuss NHTSA's current activities with regard to airbags. This hearing was a follow-up to a January 9 hearing held by the Committee. NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez testified. Senator McCain has taken an active role in helping to create public awareness of the danger of putting children in the front seat of cars equipped with airbags. On April 19, Administrator Martinez and Chairman McCain conducted safety checks of child restraints in the cities of Tucson and Phoenix, AZ.

Emerging Issues for U.S. Consumers/OECD Shipbuilding: On April 30, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing on various trade issues, including the OECD shipbuilding accord. The Department did not 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.

FY98 Senate Transportation Appropriations: On May 7, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation will hold a hearing on user fees and innovative financing proposals. Deputy Secretary Downey will testify.

NEXTEA Safety Proposal: On May 7, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has scheduled a hearing on the Administration's NEXTEA safety proposal. Witnesses from FHWA and NHTSA are expected to testify. The hearing will focus on the Administration's NEXTEA safety proposal with an emphasis on the issues within the Committee's jurisdiction. There is particular interest in truck weight, rail-highway crossings, and the safety belt sanction.

U.S./Japan Bilateral Negotiations: On May 8, the House Committee on 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.

Commercial Vessel Safety: On May 14, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation has tentatively scheduled a hearing on commercial vessel safety. The

Department will be invited to 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. The FAA is expected to testify.

Secretarys Schedule

May 2

Secretary Slater will be in New York to attend the builders Congress.

May 4-7

Secretary Slater will travel to Mexico to attend the Mexico Binational Meeting.

Deputy Secretary

May 2

The Deputy Secretary will announce the award of a grant announcement for the Farley Post Office in NY.

May 5

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

May 6

The Deputy Secretary will address the Greater Washington Board of Trades Potomac Conference in Annapolis, MD.

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 Foundations 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

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.

FAA Acting Deputy Administrator will speak at the DCCR dedication at Ft. Worth Air Route Traffic Control Center.

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.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma will deliver remarks at the Mineta

International Institute for Surface Transportation Policy Studies in San Jose, CA.

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 3-5

FRA Administrator Jolene Molitoris and Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will participate in the 14th International Convention and Exposition on High Speed Rail and Magnetic Levitation of the High Speed Rail/Maglev Association.

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.

FTA Administrator Gordon Linton will give remarks on NEXTEA at the general session at the American Public Transit Association Bus Conference in Miami, FL.

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.

RSPA Administrator Dr. Sharma will meet with representatives of Alyeska Pipeline in Anchorage, AK.

May 5-6

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Charles Hunnicutt, will represent the Department at the Binational Commission meeting in Mexico City with Secretary Slater.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator David Sanders will conduct the strategic planning meetings with Seaway employees in Massena, NY.

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.

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

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 District Legislative Issues Forum in Washington, DC.

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

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.

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

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

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 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.

The FAA Acting Deputy Administrator 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.

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.

May 15

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

May 16

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

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.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will participate in an EMS Agenda for the Future Implementation Team Recommendation Press Event in Washington,

D.C.

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

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.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator 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 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 Philip Recht will speak at the Trial Attorneys of America Annual Conference in Chicago, IL.

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 19

Deputy Administrator Philip 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, Charles Hunnicutt, will represent the Department at a pre-ministerial APEC Senior Officials meeting in Victoria, Canada.

June 23

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Frank 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 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 Wall Street Journal requested a data on cruise line accidents and incidents for a forthcoming story on that industry.

Soundings Magazine requested information on a possible story on hoax rescue calls.

Minneapolis Star Tribune requested copies of all OIG reports since January 1996, on work in MN.

Boston Herald requested a copy of the OIG report on Motor Carrier Safety.

KFRU Radio requested an interview with an OIG staff person on the Motor Carrier Safety Report, OIG declined.

Inside FAA Publication requested to speak with a staff member on comments made by Ken Mead at the confirmation hearing on April 9, 1997.

FRA Administrator Jolene M. Molitoris is tentatively scheduled to be interviewed by Dateline NBC on May 7. The interview will cover FRAs Highway Rail Grade Crossing Safety Program.

USA Today is preparing an article on the status of the 90-day review, expected to be published in May, 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.

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.

ABC Prime Time Live has requested an on-camera NHTSA interview concerning alleged sudden acceleration in Jeep Cherokees and Grand Cherokees. The request is under consideration. The segment airs May 7.

WNBC, New York, requested an on-camera NHTSA interview concerning alleged inadvertent air bag deployments in 1995 Mazdas. As there is currently an investigation underway, NHTSA will likely decline the interview.

FOIA REQUESTS

RASIP, NASIP and Enforcement Investigation Reports for the past five years for Great American Airways and Target Airways, Ltd. -- ABC World News Tonight

Violation history of Mesa Airlines from September 27, 1996 to the present; violation history of Spirit Airlines of East Point Michigan from January 1, 1988 to the present; runway incursion reports since 1991; special alerts regarding Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and its signage; and an incident report and audio tape involving a Continental Jet at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport on January 26, 1997 -- The Plain

Dealer

Incident report involving Continental Express N15447 on October 3, 1996 --
Lake Charles American Press, Sulphur, LA

Consent agreement between FAA and Mesa Airlines -- The Dallas Morning News
Records relating to a possible missile sighting by several pilots on March
1 -- Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN

Annual budgets and expenditures for air traffic control towers at
Alliance, Meacham, Redbird and Addison Airports for fiscal years 1995,
1996 and 1997; information on staffing levels and flight operations; and
all reports, correspondence, letters, records and public information
regarding the installation and operation of the Terminal Doppler Weather
Radar systems at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and Love Field
Airport for fiscal years 1995, 1996 and 1997 -- Fort Worth Star-Telegram

List of lawyers and law firms FAA contracted for legal services in fiscal
year 1996, statements of work, financial terms and payment records -- The
National Law Journal, Washington, DC

Letters sent to RSPA from the FAA, dated after December 1, 1996, that
discuss the regulation of lithium-ion or lithium polymer batteries. --
Washington Document Service

Scott W. Rooney of Charfoos & Christensen, P.C., Detroit, MI, requested a
variety of materials relating to child safety seats, vehicle
compatibility, the Blue Ribbon Panel, and NHTSAs Child Safety Seat Misuse
Team.

Point of Contact: For the weekend of May 3-4, Michael Huerta will be the
contact. He can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202)
267-3333.

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

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TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE May 21, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of May 26, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Operation ABC - Mobilizing America to Buckle Up Children: On May 19, Secretary Slater, Attorney General Reno, and Administrator Martinez kicked 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 D.C., event is hosted by the Air Bag Safety Campaign in cooperation with NHTSA. Time 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.

DOT and Interior Work Together for Quieter National Parks: On May 19, Secretary Slater and Interior Secretary Babbitt established a National Park Overflights Working Group to develop a plan to ensure the preservation of the natural quiet in the nation's parks.

Welfare to Work: On May 20, Secretary Slater participated in the White House unveiling of the Clinton administration's Welfare to Work initiative. At this meeting, the President announced the Welfare-to-Work Partnership to recognize those industries that have developed programs to hire welfare recipients. The President also announced grants being given to States by National Governors Association in cooperation with DOT to develop action plans addressing the transportation issues involved with welfare reform. Earlier that day, the Secretary, FTA Administrator, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and the Mayor of St. Louis addressed welfare, employment, and transportation constituencies about the transportation barriers facing welfare recipients trying to get to work and the proposals to support welfare reform in NEXTEA.

Pipeline Crack in Louisiana: On May 16, a pipeline owned by Texaco, under Lake Barre, LA cracked, spilling 210,000 gallons of crude oil into Lake Barre, a large body of water which opens into the Gulf of Mexico. The pipeline was repaired on May 17, and the cause is still under investigation. Texaco has assumed responsibility for the spill. The Coast Guard is on scene and overseeing the clean up efforts. Impacts to wildlife and fisheries have been minimal and are continuing to be monitored. The state Department of Health and Hospitals oyster harvest closure went into effect on May 21. Since the spill approximately 50,000 gallons have been recovered and 70,000 have evaporated. Seven skimmers, 54 vessels including barges and workboats along with 267 people have been involved in the cleanup. The source has been secured while the investigation continues. Local media interest is moderate.

Great Lakes Aviation: On May 17, Great Lakes Aviation, which operates as a commuter connection for many Great Lakes area cities agreed to suspend operations temporarily rather than be grounded by the FAA. FAA has found that the airline operated some unairworthy aircraft and that maintenance personnel were not properly trained. Under code-sharing agreements with United Airlines and Midway Airlines, Great Lakes Aviation operates as United Express and Midway Express. In addition, the airline provides service to 22 cities under Essential Air Service provisions.

Jammed Air Signals in Washington State: On May 21, there was an incident where the signals from the carrier, U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, jammed the signals at the Makah, Washington, radar site. The Makah radar site is one of many sites that feeds the Seattle Air Route Traffic Control Center. There was no impact on operations due to the early time of the incident. FAA is investigating with the Department of Defense to determine why the incident occurred because FAA has had a long-standing policy with DOD to avoid these types of situations.

TRACON Interruption: On May 20, the automated radar terminal system at the New York Terminal Radar Approach Control Facility had a computer interruption due to a software related problem. The FAA initiated ground stops on all departures and arrivals to reduce traffic in the system. Normal computer operations were resumed in about 15 minutes. There were aircraft delays as a result of this interruption. Further investigation into the cause of the interruption and software problem is ongoing.

Northwest Airlines Incident: On May 18, a passenger aboard NWA flight 57, Amsterdam to Newark, physically accosted two flight attendants. While attempting to subdue the passenger, the passenger reportedly hit his head against a flight attendant seat and was in and out of consciousness for the remaining 4 hours of the flight. Upon arrival at Newark the passenger was transported to University hospital where it was determined he had a blood alcohol content of .41%. It is reported that the passenger had been drinking alcohol that had been purchased in the Duty Free Shop. Because the extent of the passenger's injuries were unknown, the FBI asked that the aircraft be taken out of service until pictures and evidence could be obtained. The aircraft was out of service for approximately 8 hours. The FBI has charged the passenger with interference with a flight

crew and disorderly conduct.

Champion Air Incident: On May 19, Champion Air flight 721, a B-727, after landing at New Orleans, LA airport ran off the right side of Runway 28 about halfway down the runway. Visibility was 1/2 mile in a thunderstorm and heavy rain shower with winds gusting to 28 knots. The crew reported that after touchdown they entered heavy rain and could not see the runway. There were no injuries, and there is no visible damage to the airplane. However, the wheels have sunk into the mud and are not visible and the right wingtip is touching the ground. Investigations by FAA and the NTSB, who has classified the event as an incident, are continuing. On May 21, three cranes were moved to the airport and planking has been laid down close to the B-727. Extraction of the aircraft from the mud is underway. FAA inspectors are on the scene and will report on any additional damage to the aircraft as soon as the recovery operation is completed.

U.S. Coast Guard Commencement Address: On May 21, Secretary Slater will give the commencement address at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

Secretary Slater travels to West Virginia: On May 23, Secretary Slater will travel to Beckley, West Virginia to meet with Congressman Nick Rahall, Governor Cecil Underwood, Highway Commissioner Fred Van Kirk, local and community representatives, to discuss the Administration's NEXTEA proposal.

Cuban Flotilla: On May 17, the Cuban-American Movement for Democracy sponsored a flotilla event. The flotilla activities passed without incident. Less than optimum weather reduced the number of vessels and aircraft involved, to a lower level than expected. The organizers intend to stage this type of activity 2 or 3 more times prior to the Pope's visit to Cuba in January 1998. The FAA and Coast Guard will continue to monitor these types of activities.

Japan Transport Economics Research Center (JTERC): On May 20, the Deputy Secretary participated in the fourth Conference on U.S.-Japan Cooperation in Transportation. The conference was sponsored by JTERC in conjunction with the Ministry of Transport of the Government of Japan.

Grand Jury Scheduled on Certificate Falsification: The Assistant U.S. Attorney, Portland, OR, is taking to the Grand Jury the case of a Horizon Airlines mechanic who used a falsified certificate in work on Horizon Airlines aircraft for a period of 6 years. Over a hundred counts of violation will be sought for fraudulently certifying the return of aircraft to service. The case had been investigated by FAA security agents.

Grant Announcements. There were a number of grants announcements during the week of May 12. Those announcements are noted below.

On May 14, Secretary Slater announced the award of \$19.3 million for improvements at airports in New York State.

On May 14, Secretary Slater announced the first phase of a \$10.8 million

contract award to Devere Construction Company of Alpena, Michigan, to build 60 family housing units at the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

On May 13, Secretary Slater announced the award of \$13.2 million for improvements to airports in Ohio.

Deputy Secretary Downey, May 13, announced a grant of \$500,000 in FRA funds to Conrail, in partnership with CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads for the first phase of a positive train control (PTC) project on the rail corridor between Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Manassas, Virginia.

Second Safety Alert Distributed to Repair Stations: FAA Security, assisted by the Research and Special Programs Administration, distributed nearly 5000 flyers to repair stations nationwide. This was the second safety alert sent this year to remind repair stations that oxygen generators are prohibited on passenger aircraft. The flyer also clarifies transportation requirements for company material.

New Training for Explosives Detection K-9 Coordinators: On May 20-23, a group of training and canine specialists will work on developing new K-9 Program Management and basic courses at the Aeronautical Center, Oklahoma City, OK. The additional formal training is necessary for effective management of the FAA K-9 program, which will expand from 87 teams to approximately 250 teams by 1998.

Possible UPS Pilots Strike: There has been no change since last week. The National Mediation Board has not released the pilots from negotiations (which would start a thirty-day clock ticking toward a strike deadline) until possible self-help. The Pilots have voted to strike if agreement can not be reached and the Teamsters have stated their intention to honor the pilot's picket lines. About 80% of all surface-based small package shipments are handled by UPS.

NTSB Most Wanted List: On Tuesday, May 20, the NTSB met to discuss the updated "Most Wanted" list. There will be a number of aviation issues on the list, including Flight Data Recorders, and Fire Suppression and Detection in Class D compartments. NTSB is awaiting FAA rulemaking on both. They will also add Fuel Tank Modification (from the TWA 800 accident) and Airframe Icing Structure (from the Roselawn accident). Another issue will be airbag deactivation.

Cleveland Power Outage: On May 17, the MCI telephone company uninterruptible power source failed at the Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center for one hour and 12 minutes. The power problem resulted in approximately 200 aircraft delays.

National Civil Aviation Review Commission (NCAR): The National Civil Aviation Review Commission met on May 15-16. The Commission has an ambitious schedule and is being briefed on a number of FAA-related technical, operational, and financial issues. On May 28-29, the Commission will hold public hearings.

Coast Guard Seizes Marijuana: On May 14, a Coast Guard Law Enforcement

Detachment on board the USS FIREBOLT recovered 591 pounds of marijuana while patrolling off the coast of Aruba. No vessels or aircraft in the immediate area were suspected of abandoning the narcotics.

Cuban Migrant Interdiction: On May 15, 9 Cuban migrants were found on an island in the Bahamas by an aircraft from the Cuban-American group Brothers to the Rescue. The Coast Guard evacuated 6 by helicopter to Key West and transferred 3 to the Cutter DALLAS. The migrants claimed a total of 14 left Cuba on May 1 in a 20-foot boat; three others died and two more were lost at sea. The case generated considerable regional media coverage.

National Safe Boating Week (May 17 - 23): On May 17, National Safe Boating Week began. The pPeanuts character, Snoopy, is the focus of the National Safe Boating Campaign. Snoopy will visit Washington, DC, to take an active role in spreading our most important campaign message: pLIFE JACKETS. They Float. You Don't.p Snoopy will also made an appearance at the DOT Open House event at the Nassif Building on May 19.

Global Analysis Information Network (GAIN) Conference: On May 27-28, at the request of the FAA, the Royal Aeronautical Society of the United Kingdom is sponsoring the second GAIN conference in London, England. GAIN addresses ways to share aviation information and specific information requirements and/or exchange safety analysis among aviation professionals worldwide to achieve the goal of zero accidents.

The Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Safety is investigating the following incidents: On May 15, a Union Pacific Freight Train, No. MHOBV-14, operating at a speed of 15 mph struck an automobile at a highway-rail grade crossing in Olmito, Texas, north of Brownsville. As a result of the collision, three motor vehicle occupants were killed. Warning devices consist of cross bucks only.

On May 18, an Alaska Railroad passenger train, consisting of two locomotives and 10 passenger coaches, operating at an estimated speed of 25 miles per hour, derailed the trailing locomotive and nine of the passenger cars at Cantwell, Alaska, 217 miles north of Anchorage. Only six of the 380 passengers on board were hospitalized for observation and released. Nearly 20 gallons of diesel fuel was released and has been contained.

On May 18 at an unknown time, the Thames River movable bridge, a bascule structure located at mile post 124.2 on the Northeast Corridor Mainline near New London, CT, became stuck in the closed position when pieces of the rack and pinion mechanism failed, apparently due to metal fatigue. The bridge was locked for railroad traffic and no delays to trains occurred. However, significant delays to larger river traffic vessels, including U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy vessels, were occurring. The bridge was repaired by Amtrak by noon on May 20th.

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.

Ukraine: A new U.S.-Ukraine air services agreement was initialed in

meetings held in Washington, May 12-16. The agreement is liberal, with annexes containing restrictions in such areas as designations, frequencies, doing business and charters.

Korea: The U.S. and Korea will begin talks in Seoul on May 21 to begin negotiations for an open skies agreement between the U.S. and Korea.

Emergency Relief in Idaho and South Dakota: FHWA damage assessment teams, working together with State and local engineers, have estimated the damage on the Federal-aid system caused by landslides in March at \$4 million. In South Dakota, detailed inspections are complete and include 46 of South Dakota's 66 counties. As of May 14, there were more than 300 reports completed, with an estimated damage amount of more than \$15 million.

ITOP 8(a) Award: The Department of Transportation (DOT) announced award of a six year, \$32 million competitive effort for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to provide Information Technology services. The effort was awarded under the DOT Information Technology Omnibus Procurement (ITOP) program. Signal, an 8(a) contractor, along with its subcontractors, Dyncorp and RMS Technologies, Inc., will be providing helpdesk, software development, network operations and mainframe operations support services to FERC.

Tahoe Basin Event: On May 13-16, DOT staff accompanied an interagency team to Lake Tahoe to plan logistics for the issues workshops that will precede the July 25-26 visits from the Vice President and the President. These cabinet-level workshops will address issues critical to sustain the Tahoe Basin's travel and tourism economy. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will host a water quality workshop on June 18. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior will host a forest management workshop in June 30. The transportation workshop, hosted by Secretary Slater, will be scheduled for Reno, Nevada in late June or early July.

COSCO's U.S. Port Arrangements: MARAD researched and provided background information on COSCO's (China Ocean Shipping Corporation) leasing arrangements in ports throughout the United States. The information was prepared at the request of the Department of Treasury (through OST) in connection with COSCO's proposed lease of berthing facilities at Long Beach, CA.

Wireless Call to Action: NHTSA and the Federal Communications Commission, May 21, will co-sponsor a Wireless Call to Action meeting to mobilize national health, medical and public safety organizations to support local use of wireless 911.

National Maritime Day Activities: On May 22 the Merchant Marine Memorial Service will be held at 11 am in the Hubert Humphrey Building. The Maritime Administrator will address the ceremonies along with Congressional, Industry and Labor representatives.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

SHIPBUILDING

Shipbuilding Initiative - Shipyard Loan Guarantee: On May 9, the Maritime Administrator approved the Title XI application of HAM Marine, Inc., (HMI), of Pascagoula, MS, for shipyard modernization construction facilities for constructing new and refurbishing existing offshore drilling units. The guarantee amount approved is \$24,817,000 (87.5 percent of the estimated Actual Cost) for a 15-year term. The project is planned for completion by the end of 1998.

EDUCATION

Garrett A. Morgan Education Roundtable: This week, Secretary Slater extended an invitation to more than 3,000 members of the transportation community to support the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program by joining the Garrett A. Morgan Education Roundtable. This Roundtable will work to advance the math, science and technology skills of 1 million students by the year 2000 by, among other things: supporting national efforts to expand tutoring and mentoring; taking an inventory of a wide range of educational tools and opportunities and making it available to the public; hosting workshops to bring together all levels of government, private sector, and the education community. Secretary Slater, RSPA Deputy Administrator Kelley S. Coyner and FRA Administrator Jolene Molitoris will be joined by members of Congress, Cleveland Mayor White, executives from several partner corporations, and other leaders in the education community to kickoff the program on May 30 in Cleveland, OH. The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program supports the President's Service and Education initiatives and was presented as DOT's commitment to the President's Summit for America's Future.

ENVIRONMENT

EPA Air Quality Standards: DOT is continuing to participate in interagency discussions on EPA proposals for revised ozone and particulate matter (PM) ambient air quality standards. DOT provided remaining materials to Congressman Bliley who has requested submission of DOT internal materials on the NAAQS proposals from the period between December 1996, when the proposed rules were issued, and March 1997.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

FY97 Appropriations Supplemental: House and Senate conferees are expected to meet on May 20 to consider the differences in their respective versions of the \$8.4 billion supplemental spending bill. The most controversial provision is the automatic continuing resolution over which the President has vowed to veto the bill.

Barriers to Entry in the Aviation Industry: On May 13, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing on barriers to entry in the aviation industry. Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt testified. Issues discussed included the loss of service by major carriers to rural areas since deregulation of the airline industry in 1978; the resulting rise in ticket prices for flights to rural areas; and barriers to entry that included

slots, the perimeter rule, long-term exclusive-use gates and marketing strategies of dominant airlines. Senator Ron Wyden was especially critical of the Administration's AIP funding proposal for FY98. No Member was particularly critical of the Department, although Chairman John McCain was regretful that Mr. Hunnicutt had not expressed the Department's view regarding the perimeter rule.

Medical Kits on Commercial Airlines: On May 21, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing on medical kits on commercial airlines. Issues raised by the Subcommittee included the liability concerns of doctors and flight attendants who might be called upon to use defibrillators on stricken passengers; flight attendants' preparedness to take on the added responsibilities of enhanced medicine and medical-emergency equipment; and the need for standardized medical kits and medical emergency training. FAA Air Surgeon Jon Jordan testified.

Department of Transportation Major Management and Program Weaknesses: On May 21, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing on the Department's major management and program weaknesses. Deputy Secretary Downey testified.

NHTSA Oversight and Reauthorization: On May 22, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection will hold a hearing on oversight and reauthorization of the NHTSA. NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Deputy Administrator Recht will testify. Other witnesses will include representatives from the automobile industry and consumer groups.

Commercial Ventures in Space: On May 22, the House Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics will hold a hearing on promotion of commercial ventures in space. FAA Deputy Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Patti Smith will testify.

ISTEA Legislation Introduced: On May 13, Representative Susan Molinari introduced H.R. 1000, the ISTEA Works Act. The bill has more than 40 co-sponsors and seeks to preserve the basic framework of ISTEA and protect funding levels for many northeastern and/or donee states. The measure is a companion bill to S.586, introduced in April by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

ISTEA Developments: Senators Daniel Inouye and Frank Lautenberg are working individually to develop legislation to continue the existing ferryboat program. A separate category of funding was not included in the Administration's NEXTEA proposal although eligibility in other categories was expanded to include this program.

Divisions among Senate Environment and Public Works members on ISTEA reauthorization are becoming sharper. Several minority members who support ISTEA are concerned about the growing alliance between Senators Max Baucus and John Warner. Chairman John Chafee is reportedly meeting individually with members to try to develop some consensus and to shape a bill.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff report that progress on the committee bill has stalled as discussions on funding levels and the budget resolution take precedence. An amendment to the budget resolution will be offered to increase highway and transit funding. Efforts to resolve disagreements over policy and program issues have been mostly set aside for now. It is hoped that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee bill will be ready for review sometime in June.

During consideration of the emergency supplemental bill, Senator Warner offered an amendment to change the funding distribution contained in the bill in response to the Treasury error in reporting income to the Highway Trust Fund. Following acrimonious debate, the measure failed by a 46-54 vote, which mirrored the states that would have won or lost funds. During the debate, several members said it was the first round of the donor-donor battle on ISTEA reauthorization legislation.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff have a renewed interest in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and the status of the pending rule. Minority staff advise that a briefing as soon as possible on the rule may be critical in helping to get a provision extending the program into the Committee's ISTEA reauthorization bill.

Secretary's Schedule

May 22

Secretary Slater will address the Propeller Club in Washington, D.C..

Secretary Slater will participate in a NEXTEA event in WV with Congressman Nick Rahall.

May 30

Secretary Slater will announce the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program in Cleveland, OH.

The Deputy Secretary

May 22

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

May 28

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the 4th North American Aviation Tri-Lateral Conference.

May 29-30

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

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

May 20

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Japan Transportation Research Center's 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 Association's 88th annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

FAA Acting Deputy Administrator Belger will speak at the dedication of DCCR equipment in FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center in Jacksonville, FL.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will attend a Great Lakes Maritime Task Force Breakfast 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 Graykowski 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.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will participate in Maritime Day in Duluth, MN.

May 26

FTA Administrator Linton will travel to Curitiba, Brazil, with an American entourage, 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 in Vienna, Austria.

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.

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 USCG's Ninth District in Cleveland, OH.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will participate in the Amtrak Board of Directors meeting in Fort Lauderdale, 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 Lieber 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.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will host the Garrett A. Morgan roll-out program and present the Seaway's 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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 þ97 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.

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 Board's 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.

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 Amtrak's 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.

August 3-6

BTS Director Lakshmanan will participate in the 67th Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

Media Inquiries

On May 14, Harold Aikens in the Office of Legal Counsel provided further information to the Tulsa World about the use of offensive names in the bridge inventory.

Associated Press, New Jersey Star Ledger. Requested comment on Rep. Menendez's remarks about the legality of the Coast Guard's enforcement of

the South Florida Security Zone. The Coast Guards response was coordinated with the Department of State and National Security Council.

Fisher Television Washington Bureau (KOMO Seattle). Requested information on the status of the Coast Guards investigation into the sinking of the Quillayute, WA motor lifeboat and death of 3 Coast Guardsmen.

The Washington Post inquired about FTAps involvement in the Dulles Rail Study.

Wingspan News requested an OIG report on FAAps Oversight of ValuJet that was mentioned in the Washington Post (OIG provided no information).

Dallas Star Ledger requested information on fingerprinting as a means to prevent fraud (referred to the FBI).

Rocky Mountain News requested a definition of revitalization pay for FAA Air Traffic Controllers (referred to FAA).

Fisher TV Stations requested information on any OIG action resulting from the capsizement of a USCG motor life boat earlier this year. They were informed OIG has no ongoing action in this matter.

Aviation Daily requested clarification of a press release on an indictment for fraud in Aviation parts.

Aviation Daily requested information on Great American Airways.

Reporters from the Associated Press, Washington Post and the Detroit Dailies asked for additional information on NHTSAps plans for consumer information as announced in a press release May 14. Deputy Administrator Philip Recht responded.

Washington Post: Reporters David Ottaway and Warren Brown have been working for several weeks on a major two-part feature on air bags, their history and future. The story is not expected until late in May. Warren Brown indicates that they are waiting for action on the deactivation rule.

Dateline NBC: Reporter Mike Causner interviewed Administrator Ricardo Martinez on May 9 for a future segment on drowsy drivers, highlighting new technology to deal with the problem. Date of airing is unknown. He also asked about offset crash testing, and may use the answer in the recurring Dateline crash testing feature with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Government Executive: On Friday, May 16, Administrator Martinez was interviewed by Government Executive magazine on pculture change in a government agency detailing his experience as a physician with a different perspective on automobile injury.

KIRO Seattle: On May 8, NHTSA Region 10 was interviewed by CBS affiliate KIRO TV in Seattle regarding potential public concern resulting from the inadvertent deployment of an air bag in a 1996 Chevrolet Caprice. The Region indicated that this was an isolated incident which should not

elicit undue public concern, but that it should be reported to the dealership as well as to the Auto Safety Hotline and the Office of Defect Investigations.

CBS Evening News is requesting an on-camera interview with NHTSA Administrator Martinez regarding drowsy driving. The interview has not been scheduled yet. The story is prompted by a trial in Massachusetts.

NBC Dateline interviewed NHTSA Administrator Martinez May 9 for a future segment on drowsy drivers, highlighting technology to deal with the problem. Air date is unknown.

NBC Dateline has asked NHTSA for information about rollover research and where rollover ranks as a cause of fatalities in vehicle crashes. The reporter is in the research stage, so it is too soon to forecast an air date.

AP is working on a story, possibly for this week, on the relationship between Members of Congress and corporations and access to National Airport where landing is controlled by a slot system for commercial traffic and a first-come, first-served reservation system is used for private/corporate traffic.

The Wall Street Journal interviewed SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders May 14 for a possible story on the PBO proposal.

The New York Times is preparing an article on FAA's methodology for tracking Operational Errors at New York Center. Reporter will interview FAA Director of Air Traffic Service May 20.

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 will interview FAA director of Aircraft Certification Service May 23.

Dateline NBC is preparing a segment on grade crossing safety from the engineer's 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.

FOIA REQUESTS

NASIP, RASIP and Enforcement Investigation Reports since January 1, 1996 for Delta Air Lines -- The Wall Street Journal

Accident report for Air India Flight 182 that exploded off the coast of Ireland after leaving Canada for Bombay in 1985 -- Southam News, Ontario, Canada

Letters written on behalf of Craig W. Davis to Director Harris office in
April 1992 -- Los Angeles Times

AVR Business Plan for FY 98 -- Inside Washington Publishers

Point of Contact: For the weekend of May 24-26, 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 12:35:27.00

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 CFLHDs 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 Teresa, 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 Hold, 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.

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])

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 11:26:35.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of February 7, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE February 6, 1997

FROM: Secretary Peña

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of February 10, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Possible Strike By American Airlines Pilots: The Department is working closely with various principals concerning a possible strike against American by the Allied Pilots Association. Key issues are compensation and whether pilots will permit Americans subsidiary, American Eagle, to fly regional jets. Parties are meeting on February 6, in Dallas for presentation of the unions economic analysis. Formal negotiations will resume on February 10, under NMB auspices. If disputes are unresolved, stoppage could occur as early as 12:01 a. m. on February 15. The Department is coordinating analysis and monitoring efforts with the White House staff.

Slater Confirmation Update: On February 5, the Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation approved by unanimous voice vote the nomination of Secretary-designate Rodney Slater. On February 6, the Senate confirmed him by a vote of 98-0.

Quincy Shipyard Loan Guarantee: On February 4, Senator John McCain, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, requested that Secretary Peña withhold federal assistance to reopen the Quincy shipyard until safeguards are in place to protect taxpayers dollars which would be used to secure loans to refurbish the facility. Legislation passed last year granting federal support to reactivate certain shipyards, including Quincy, waived the economic soundness test normally required before loan guarantees are approved. Secretary Peña responded by assuring Senator McCain that appropriate safeguards had been built into the letter of commitment.

Aviation Excise Taxes Hearings: On February 5, the Senate Finance Committee approved by unanimous voice vote, legislation reinstating the aviation ticket tax through the end of FY97 and authorizing the transfer

of excise taxes to the aviation trust fund. The legislation was drafted by Senator Roth, who had indicated that the Administrations active support would be needed to move a clean bill through the Senate. The mark up follows a hearing on February 4 on aviation excise taxes held by the Finance Committee. OST Budget Deputy Secretary Louise Stoll and FAA Acting Deputy Administrator Monte Belger testified. On February 5, the House Ways and Means Committee also held a hearing on the aviation excise tax issue.

Deputy Secretary to Address AASHTO: On February 7, Deputy Secretary Downey will participate in a panel discussion on the Departments Budget and Reauthorization at the annual meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Freighter Runs Aground in National Marine Sanctuary off Florida Keys: On February 3, the 652 ft. Liberian container ship CONTSHIP HOUSTON, sailing from New Orleans to Valencia, Spain, ran hard aground in sand and coral inside the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary about 12 miles Southeast of Key West, FL. The ship is carrying 810,000 gallons of fuel oil, but there has been no pollution thus far. An initial attempt to move the ship on February 4 failed, and cargo or fuel will be removed to lighten the ship. A unified command has been established in Key West with the Coast Guard, the State of Florida, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the responsible party (Transportacion Maritima Mexicana). The Coast Guard has initiated a Marine Casualty Investigation. The case has generated heavy media coverage.

Coast Guard Rescues Dominican Migrants: On February 5, the Coast Guard Cutter COURAGEOUS interdicted a boat with 108 Dominican migrants west of Puerto Rico. The migrant boat capsized and the cutter was able to rescue 104 of the migrants immediately. Three migrants are missing and one migrant was recovered deceased. A search is in progress.

Deputy Secretary Announces Budget: On February 6, in conjunction with the Presidents Budget Announcement, Deputy Secretary Downey held a press conference and a briefing for Transportation constituency groups.

Fuel Spill in Portland, ME: On February 6, 20,000 gallons of gasoline were spilled into the Fore River at the fuel terminal in South Portland, ME. The Coast Guard responded to monitor clean up efforts, and by the end of the day the gasoline had evaporated. The cause of the spill was operator inattention. There was heavy regional media interest particularly since the fuel spill was within 2 miles of the Portland oil spill which occurred on September 27, 1996.

Gore Commission on Aviation Safety and Security: On February 4, senior staff from the Department and the FAA met with the White House commission staff to discuss the Commissions final report. The Gore Commission will hold its final meeting on February 11-12 to discuss Aviation Safety and Security issues. The Commission is expected to present the report to you following the meeting.

Deputy Secretary to meet with French Transport Minister: On February 10, Deputy Secretary Downey is scheduled to meet with Madame Anne-Marie Idrac,

French State Secretary for Transport, for discussions on U.S. transport policy in the areas of bilateral civil aviation, aviation safety, intermodalism, rail, and Federal/State partnerships with the private sector.

ValuJet-Boston: Last week, ValuJet Airlines announced new service from Atlanta and Washington to Boston starting on February 20. The airline must still obtain approval from the FAA for its new Boston station. Because of recent consumer problems when ValuJet had to cancel flights when it could not obtain timely approval of several other new destination stations, the Department asked for and obtained a written commitment from the airline to provide special consumer protections. ValuJet has promised that if it is late in obtaining approval for its Boston station, it will purchase tickets for its passengers on other airlines regardless of price.

American/British Airlines Application for Antitrust Immunity: AA/BA filed an application for antitrust immunity to act as one airline on January 10. Answers were filed on January 31. Numerous motions have been filed in the case, requesting dismissal, an oral evidentiary hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, access to confidential pleadings, and/or no action until an open skies agreement is signed with the British. The Department is reviewing the application and pleadings. Bilateral aviation talks are scheduled to continue with the British in Washington on February 18. There is significant congressional, industry, and press interest.

US and Foreign International Airlines to Implement Waivers of the Warsaw Convention Passenger Liability Limits: Following DOT's modifications of its conditions on approval of an IATA Agreement issued January 8, the US airlines have coordinated appropriate tariffs to eliminate the previously applicable \$75,000 passenger liability limit under the Warsaw Convention and foreign carriers are meeting to do the same. The tariffs implementing the airline waiver agreements will be filed with the Department on February 6, and become effective, within the next several weeks. These waivers should affect the vast majority of international air services.

Chinese Migrants Intercepted off Colombia: On January 30, a Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment from a Navy ship located 43 Chinese migrants on-board the Guyanese-flagged vessel CAPT KEVIN off the coast of Colombia. The Government of Guyana authorized the Coast Guard to take custody of the migrants, and the Cutter VENTUROUS escorted the boat to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Enroute, the migrants became unruly and started fires near the boats propane tanks, but the Coast Guard boarding team maintained control. The Department of State is negotiating with Guyana for transfer of the migrants back to that nation. A Coast Guard C-130 aircraft is on standby to provide transportation, if required.

California Emergency Relief (ER) Funds Update: More storms have hit Northern California and as a result, two more major highways have closed. Route 50 which serves the Sacramento and San Francisco Bay area traffic to South Lake Tahoe suffered a massive slide which closed the road completely. The northbound structure on Route 101 at the Salinas River Bridge near Soledad settled about two feet. This side has been closed and traffic is being detoured. The additional \$30 million allocation of ER funds was received, bringing the total allocation to \$50 million.

Estimates of total storm damage cost in California will be about three times the \$100 million cap.

Brothers to the Rescue Plan Cuba Flights: On February 24, Brothers to the Rescue, the Cuban American Pilot Association, Rescue Rafter Legion, and the air wing of the Democracia Movement are planning to hold a fly around of Cuba with approximately 12 aircraft. NSC will convene an inter-agency meeting to discuss contingency plans when more information is available.

National Child Passenger Safety Week: On January 30, NHTSA staff met with representatives of the Air Bag Safety Coalition (ABSC) Public Information Operating Committee to plan activities for National Child Passenger Safety Week (February 9 - 15). The Department is working with the White House on an event to be held during that week to heighten awareness of child passenger safety.

BART/SFO Congressional Inquiries: Senator Feinstein has convened a meeting among San Francisco airport, BART and airline representatives in an attempt to resolve the issue of whether BART will pay rent to the airport. The public comment period for the FAA's proposed policy--allowing airports to offer below market rents to public transit--ends February 18. The Department had previously received letters from Senators McCain and Shelby, and Congressman Wolf.

Secretary Peña Becomes Second-Longest Serving Transportation Secretary: On February 1, Secretary Peña became the second-longest serving transportation secretary, surpassing the term served by former Massachusetts Governor John Volpe. The only longer-serving transportation secretary was Elizabeth Dole.

Suit to Compel Chrysler to Recall Vehicles with Noncompliant Seat Belt Anchorages: On February 4, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia heard oral arguments in a suit brought by the United States to enforce a NHTSA order directing Chrysler Corporation to recall 91,000 model year 1995 Chrysler Cirrus and Dodge Stratus passenger cars that fail to comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 210, Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages. During a NHTSA compliance test, the rear seat belt anchorage pulled out of the floor of the vehicle before the required force was sustained. Chrysler contends that because the anchorage did not fail in a 1993 test that it conducted under slightly different test conditions, NHTSA is legally precluded from finding that a noncompliance exists. The Government contends that since the purpose of the standard is to assure that seat belt anchorages will protect people in a crash, vehicles must be able to withstand the required forces at all test conditions that reflect anticipated occupant use. The court is expected to rule in March.

TWA 800 Families to Visit Hangar: On February 8, the NTSB and the FBI have invited families of victims of the TWA 800 accident to tour the hangars where the aircraft is being reconstructed.

Wisconsin Central Railroad Meeting: On February 3, FRA met with the Wisconsin Central Railroads (WC) CEO, discussed their overall safety record, and issued a Compliance Order (CO) to bring them in line with FRAs

safety regulations. The CO will cover issues such as track, mechanical equipment, human factors, and management oversight of the railroad. The CO is expected to be delivered at the end of the week. On February 6, FRA sent additional inspectors to various sites on the railroad to ensure that Federal safety regulations are being followed.

AGENCY WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

Expansion of Aviation Security Canine Explosives Detection Program: The Gore Commission initiative to deploy more FAA-certified K-9 teams at the nations largest airports was temporarily delayed when airport authorities expressed the desire for additional flexibility in the draft Letter of Agreement (LOA). This agreement is to be signed by each airport authority in order for FAA to obligate funds to support the K-9 teams. A draft LOA is expected to be distributed to all participants by the end of the week.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Trust Funds Off-Budget: On February 5, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up H.R. 4, legislation to take the transportation trust funds off-budget. It was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Hearing on ISTEA Reauthorization: On February 13, Deputy Secretary Mort Downey will testify before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee) on the reauthorization of ISTEA, transportation trends, infrastructure funding requirements, and transportation's impact on the economy. A similar hearing in the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is being considered for February 12. The Department's detailed legislative proposal for renewal of ISTEA authorities was submitted to OMB for interagency clearance on February 3.

FY98 Transportation Appropriations: The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation is expected to hold 10 hearings between February 25 and March 20 on the Departments FY98 funding levels. The Transportation Secretary is scheduled to testify on March 4.

Aviation User Fees Hearing: On February 5 and 13, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation is holding hearings on the issue of user fees. Scheduled witnesses include GAO, NATA, AOPA, GAMMA, and NBAA on February 5, and CEOs and think tanks on February 13. The Department will not testify.

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

February 9-11

The SLSDC Administrator and Deputy Administrator will attend the joint Lake Carriers Association & Canadian Shipowners Associations 60th International Joint Conference in Phoenix, AZ.

February 10

FRA Administrator Jolene Molitoris will travel to Miami, FL to meet with the Rail Labor CEOs.

February 12-13

The FRA Deputy Administrator, Donald Itzkoff, will travel to FRAs Region I, headquartered in Cambridge, MA.

February 14-18

RSPA Administrator Dr. D.K. Sharma will participate in the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.

February 19

Admiral Kramek will attend the Reserve Officers Association mid-Winter Conference.

February 19-20

The SLSDC Administrator will attend a Seaway Advisory Board meeting in West Palm Beach, FL.

February 20

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the Black History program in Philadelphia, PA.

February 26

Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Defense University.

The SLSDC Administrator will be speaking at a Rotary Club Luncheon in Watertown, NY.

February 27

The SLSDC Administrator will host a tour of Snell Lock for reporters to view the winter maintenance program.

February 27 - March 2

Admiral Kramek will visit Coast Guard units in Washington and Oregon.

February 28

FTA Administrator Linton will be the speaker at the Transit Institute of the North Carolina A&T University for their program on ISTE.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will give remarks at the State Association of Chiefs of Policy in Washington, D.C.

March 4

Admiral Kramek will address the CG Marine Safety Officers Conference in Washington.

March 5

Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee (TIC) working lunch.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will be a panelist at the Mid-Year Meeting of State and Provincial Police in Annapolis, MD.

March 5-6

Admiral Kramek will host the Coast Guard Senior Advisory Group.

March 12

Admiral Kramek will testify at the Coast Guard appropriations hearing.

March 13

Admiral Kramek will speak to flag and general officers participating in the CAPSTONE program.

Vice Admiral Herr will visit the CG Petty Officers Academy in Petaluma, CA.

March 18-20

Admiral Kramek will host the Coast Guard Flag Officers Conference at Andrews Air Force Base.

March 21

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Philip Recht will speak at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the Automotive Occupant Restraints Council in Tucson, AZ.

March 24

Admiral Kramek will attend the USO Annual Awards dinner in Washington.

March 26

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

PRESS/MEDIA INQUIRIES

Conde Nast Traveler. Inquired about ocean dumping and cruise ship responsibility.

Japanese Daily Newspaper. Inquired about OPA 90 and the process used by the U.S. Coast Guard in large spills.

ABC News. Inquired into the Coast Guards contract activities with DME, Corp.

Portland Press Herald (Maine). Requested more information on the home porting of two coastal buoy tenders in their state.

The Washington Post, February 4, meets with FRA representatives to discuss safety actions FRA has taken since February 1996 railroad accidents. The New Jersey AP and Newark Star Ledger are also pursuing similar stories.

U.S. News and World Report is doing a story on U.S./Mexican relations (cover story for end of February). The Coast Guard has provided information on counter drug smuggling successes in the past two months and

expects a follow-on interview.

Scientific American, February 3, requested an interview with Deputy Secretary Downey regarding how U.S. cities should address their commuting problems. Publication date unknown.

U.S. News and World Report is working on an article on the aviation trust fund. Publication date is the week of February 10.

The Washington Post, February 4, interviewed NHTSA in connection with an unpublished 1976 analysis of air bag effectiveness. The Post will write from a historical perspective of dealing with the air bag issue 20 years ago. Publication date is not known.

NBC visited LaGuardia January 22 to film FAAs Weather Support for Deicing Decision making test bed. Segment to air mid-February.

ABC, February 11, will air a segment on in-flight and ground deicing. To be featured in Solutions segment of the nightly news.

Crains Business News, January 31, requested total federal spending for highways in last few years.

The Boston Globe, January 30, called the FHWA Massachusetts Division Office about a possible investigation of purported efforts by a Central Artery contractor to pay below-normal wages to truck drivers on the project. The Division office provided background information and advised the reporter of FHWA's and the states responsibilities regarding the contractor.

Conde Nast is working on articles on portable electronic devices on airplanes, publication date unknown, and on outsourcing, publication date unknown.

A Washington Post reporter visited several Terminal Doppler Weather Radar installations and the DCA tower. A graphics-oriented feature is expected in mid-February.

Jack Anderson's column is looking into security spending and whether the amount of funds devoted to the area is inappropriate. Publication date unknown.

The Houston Chronicle is expected to run a story on the nation's pipeline system this month.

Prime Time Live will do a story in January or February on the TWA 800 accident, and using inert gases to reduce flammability of empty fuel tanks.

AP, January 3, called concerning an article on accidents involving school bus handrails that snag drawstrings on children's clothing. NHTSA provided historic information about injuries and its news releases containing warnings and recall information. This appears to be a feature

story and may not be published immediately.

Jack Anderson's column requested information on service interruptions, technical upgrade and GAO report. A background interview was conducted, column is expected.

FOIA REQUESTS

Registration numbers or owner names of all private jets arriving at or departing from National and Dulles Airports from January 17 through January 21 -- The Washington Post

Enforcement actions, inspector notes, reports and supporting documents and appeals concerning Comair Inc. -- USA Today

Point of Contact: For the weekend of February 8-9, Jackie Lowey will be the contact. She can be reached at (703) 671-2529 (home) or 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 11:10:19.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the week of April 14, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE April 9, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of April 14, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Wilson Bridge Meeting: On April 10, Secretary Slater, FHWA Acting Administrator Garvey and a congressional delegation from VA, MD and DC will meet concerning funding for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The meeting is closed to the media; however, given the high interest in this, it may be reported.

Seattle/APEC: On April 14, Secretary Slater will address the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ministers in Seattle, WA. While in Seattle, he will meet with a Seattle editorial board and do an event amplifying NEXTEA.

National Volunteerism Week Event in Seattle: On April 14, Secretary Slater will visit with students and volunteers from the Marine Technology Program which is associated with the Highline, Federal Way, and South Central School Districts. Representatives from the Coast Guard, NOAA, and maritime industries have served as volunteers to help prepare these students for jobs in the maritime industry. The Secretary will tour the facility and meet with students from the program as well as volunteers from the Marine Skills Advisory Center.

AFL-CIO: On April 15, Secretary Slater will address the National Conference of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, in Washington, DC.

Vice President Gore, Empowerment Zones: On April 16, Secretary Slater will join Vice President Gore in Detroit, MI for the Third White House Community Empowerment Conference. While in MI, the Secretary will also attend a round table discussion focusing on transportation's key role in moving people from welfare to work.

Safety Bill Roll Out: The Department is working with the White House to

secure the participation of the President, Vice President or First Lady in a roll out next week of a Safety Bill, emphasizing seat belt enforcement laws, we are awaiting a response from the White House.

Secretary Travels to North Dakota: On April 4, Secretary Slater traveled 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 were accompanied by regional transportation representatives. The Secretary addressed the Minnkota Power Annual Meeting and toured the Advance Transportation Weather System Center at the University of North Dakota.

B-737 Emergency Landing: On April 9, the pilot of a Continental Airlines B-737, en route from Philadelphia to Cleveland, advised that he had a rudder problem, declared an emergency, and landed at Cleveland without further incident. There were no serious injuries to passengers; one flight attendant was thrown off her feet. FAA has turned over the cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder to the NTSB for readout. Initial investigation indicates it may have been a yaw-damper related problem, which is not an unusual incident and which causes the rudder to kick. NTSB readouts tomorrow may pinpoint the cause of the problem.

Utah Light Rail and Bus Grant Announcements: On April 11, FTA Administrator Gordon Linton will be in Salt Lake City, UT to announce 2 grants. He will announce a grant for \$4,755,801 for construction of the Salt Lake Light Rail Transit Project, park and ride lots, and to purchase light rail cars and equipment. FTA and UTA entered into a FFGA to construct the Salt Lake Light Rail Transit Project on August 2, 1995. This grant is the third increment of funding to the project since the FFGA was signed. He also will announce a Bus grant in the amount of \$5,558,000 for the purchase of 28 40-foot buses and related equipment.

I-15 Project in Utah: On April 15, a ceremony will be held in Salt Lake City, UT to launch a major reconstruction of 17 miles of I-15 in preparation for the Winter Olympics in February, 2002. The project will take 4 « years to complete at a cost of \$1.59 billion, the largest individual contract ever awarded in the history of the interstate highway system. This is a design-build project which combines innovative contracting techniques that decrease construction time by 50%. In addition, FHWA's innovative financing team is working with state and the private sector to develop financing strategies to leverage federal dollars. FHWA acting Administrator Jane Garvey will attend along with Governor Leavitt, Mayor Corradini, and other state and local officials.

Singapore Honors Boeing Company's CEO: On April 9, Secretary Slater will attend a dinner hosted by Singapore Ambassador Chan Heng Chee in honor of Philip Condit, President and CEO of the Boeing Company. Mr. Condit played a significant role in the successful sale contract of 77 Boeing 777 air craft.

Secretary's Meeting With General McCaffrey, ONDCP: On April 7, Secretary Slater met with General Barry McCaffrey, Director, ONDCP. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss agency drug intervention and demand reduction initiatives. In addition, both organizations' cooperative efforts in

implementing the National Drug Control Strategy were highlighted.

Mexican NAFTA Drug and Alcohol Testing Efforts: The Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance will coordinate and conduct a comprehensive training program for Mexican government and medical officials regarding implementation of the Department's drug and alcohol testing rules. The two day program will be conducted in Tijuana, Mexico on April 17-18.

Canadian NAFTA Drug and Alcohol Program Meeting: The Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance will sponsor a meeting with representatives of Transport Canada, the Standards Council of Canada, FHWA, and HHS on April 23. The purpose of the meeting is to resolve the few remaining drug testing laboratory and enforcement issues in preparation for small Canadian motor carrier implementation of FHWA drug and alcohol testing rules. July 1, is the start date for implementation.

Slater Taps Huerta, Lowey and Malone for Key Management Positions: Secretary Slater, April 4, named Michael Huerta, currently associate deputy secretary and director of the Office of Intermodalism, to be his chief of staff. Jacqueline Lowey, deputy chief of staff who announced late last year she would leave the department, will stay on as principal deputy chief of staff during the transition. Jerry L. Malone, chief counsel for FHWA, will be deputy chief of staff. Also on April 4, Secretary Slater announced the retirement of Maritime Administrator Admiral Herberger effective July 1.

Air Bag Safety Campaign Announcement: NHTSA Administrator Martinez participated in a press conference on April 9 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC, to announce their spring mobilization called Operation ABC: Mobilizing America to Buckle Up Children. Law enforcement in all 50 states have committed to high visibility enforcement efforts during the week of May 19-26. This will coincide with Buckle Up! America Week, a Department coordinated national education effort to inform the public on the correct use of seatbelts and child safety seats.

Inspector General Nomination: On April 9, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a hearing to consider the nomination of Ken Mead as Inspector General of the Department.

NHTSA Publishes Extension of Comment Period on Air Bag Test Procedure: On April 1, NHTSA published an extension of time of the comment period concerning a petition from Senator Dirk Kempthorne requesting the agency to amend the automatic crash protection standard. The standard includes provisions specifying the use of unbelted test dummies as well as belted test dummies in testing air bag-equipped vehicles. Senator Kempthorne asked that the agency impose a moratorium on testing with unbelted dummies, to mitigate negative side effects of air bags. The Association of International Automobile Manufacturers asked for more time to comment. The comment period has been extended approximately 60 days until June 2.

Vehicle Size and Safety - Evaluation Reports: NHTSA will release a package of 7 technical reports on the relationship of vehicle size and weight to fatality and injury risk in passenger cars and light trucks. The studies are based on statistical analyses of crash data and they

examine the historical weight-safety relationship. Smaller cars have higher fatality and injury risk than large cars, even after controlling for the age of the drivers, etc. On the other hand, the larger pickup trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles currently on the road present a hazard to smaller road users, such as passenger cars or pedestrians. A reduction in the weight of these trucks is unlikely to have a net adverse effect on safety, since it could benefit car occupants and pedestrians more than it would harm the occupants of the trucks. Conversely, continued growth in the number and weight of light trucks, unless offset by safety improvements, is likely to increase the hazard in collisions between the trucks and smaller road users.

Secretary to Participate in National Safe Driving Event: On April 17, Secretary Slater will participate in a Press Announcement with the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety, a National group of businesses committed to improving safety on our nations roads. DOT has submitted a request to Cabinet Affairs for the President to proclaim the week of April 20 -26 as National Drive Safely at Work Week which the Secretary will announce during the event. This event has also been offered to the White House and the DPC for more extensive involvement.

CA Moves to Pass Drug Offenders Law: Californias law expired on March 1, it is the only State currently not in compliance with the Federal requirement. FHWA provided CA with its full apportionment of FY 97 Federal-Aid funds on October 1, 1996 (\$ 1.75 B), but reserved \$ 90.8 million of those funds pending compliance with Federal law. DOT instructed CA to come into compliance or have the reserved funds rescinded on March 1, 1997. Governor Wilson and the CA legislative leadership requested an extension to April 7; Secretary Slater granted this request based on the progress being made by California. FHWA has worked closely with the State and has received assurances that appropriate legislation will be passed on April 10, and signed by the Governor on Friday, April 11. Accordingly, FHWA has refrained from rescinding the highway funds. However, if this time frame is not met, DOT will need to proceed with rescission of the \$ 90.8 million in highway funding to California.

Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 -- Air Carrier Plans: Pursuant to the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 (Act), each certificated air carrier must by April 9 submit to the Department and the National Transportation Safety Board a plan to address the needs of families of passengers involved in aircraft accidents. In accordance with the Act and the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, Secretary Slater previously appointed a Task Force including representatives of aviation accident victims' families, and airlines. The Task Force will, among other things, review these plans and then develop guidelines to assist air carriers in responding to aircraft accidents.

Virginia and D.C. Bills on Washington Airports: Governor Allen has signed a bill that provides for two more Presidential appointees on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA). A counterpart bill has been introduced before the District of Columbia Council. Per the Metropolitan Washington Airports Amendments Act of 1996, the additional Presidential appointments need to be made by September 30, 1997, to avoid a restriction on new airport grant approvals and new PFC

approvals. We are in discussion with MWAA staff about language for amending the MWAA lease.

American Airlines/British Airways Alliance: American filed a response to the Departments order asking for more information on requested confidential documents before making a determination on relevance of certain documents. Other U.S. airlines filed responses, opposing most of Americans request. We are expecting a similar filing from BA.

Garrett A. Morgan Transportation & Technology Futures Program: The Department is in the process of establishing the Garrett A. Morgan Transportation & Technology 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. The Secretarys goal is to reach 1 million students and expose them to the various opportunities in transportation. A key component of the initiative will be the partnerships between DOT, the transportation industry and our nations schools. Secretary Slater recognizes that this program is consistent with President Clintons goals for education and service and encourages the President to consider mentioning the Garrett A. Morgan initiative in his address at the Summit.

Environmental Justice: The Final DOT Order on Environmental Justice (EJ), which was signed by Secretary Peña, will be published in the Federal Register soon. The Office of Civil Rights is developing training to assist staff in implementing the EJ Order.

American Airlines Strike Settlement : Late last week the pilots' union board approved a tentative agreement with the company. The agreement is now being distributed to the membership for a ratification vote, which will be completed within a month. News reports characterized prospects for passage as good, though substantial elements within the union continue to oppose the agreement on the basis of the regional jet issue.

Explosives Detection Program: On March 25, the first class of K-9 handlers trained in an FAA Exclusive course rather than in a mixed FAA/military class graduated from the Military Working Dog School at Lackland Air Force Base. The program will produce approximately 56 handlers per year to support the expansion of the FAA program to virtually all Category X and I airports over the next 3 years.

Deployment of CTX-5000 at Washington National Airport: Deployment of a CTX-5000SP for U.S. Airways and an EG&G Z scan for Northwest Airlines has moved months ahead of schedule to coincide with the opening of the new terminal complex in July. The initial on site survey was conducted April 1.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti: On April 14-15, senior FAA security officials will travel to Port-au-Prince to meet U.S. Embassy and Haitian officials, following reports of deteriorating security at the airport. The meetings will focus on immediate resumption of promised enhancements in airport security.

Technical Assistance to Mexico: On April 7, a Coast Guard team demonstrated IONSCAN drug detection capabilities to Mexican officials (IONSCAN is used to detect traces of cocaine). The Coast Guard presentation is expected to strengthen the Government of Mexico's evidence package in an upcoming legal proceeding.

Coast Guard Assists in Cruise Ship Fire Near Bahamas: On April 6, a fire occurred in the laundry on the Bahamian Cruise Ship VISTAFJORD, which had left Ft. Lauderdale for Portugal. Coast Guard aircraft and three cutters were alerted, but the ship safely arrived in Freeport, Bahamas, where the fire was extinguished by the crew and local fire department. One crew member died of apparent asphyxiation and two other people, one passenger, suffered minor injuries. The 469 passengers were not evacuated, but were being allowed to leave if they desired. The ship's owner, the Coast Guard, and NTSB are investigating the circumstances.

Sidney Lanier Bridge Ground Breaking Ceremony: A ceremony to commemorate building of the bridge will take place April 14 in Brunswick, GA. The bridge will replace an unreasonably obstructive vertical lift drawbridge and provide for uninterrupted land transportation and marine traffic. In partnership with the state of GA, the Coast Guard shares equally in this \$108 million intermodal project, which is scheduled for completion in 2000.

European Conference of Ministers of Transport: Deputy Secretary Mortimer L. 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.

Temporary Flight Restriction for Denver, CO, Federal Courthouse: On April 1, at the request of the FBI, a Temporary Flight Restriction was issued for the Denver, CO, Federal Courthouse due to the McVeigh trial. This restricts all flight within a 2 nautical mile radius. The restriction provides a 24 hour telephone number to coordinate and obtain approval to enter the area. Special provisions have been made for media requests for live/file footage of the courthouse area, banner tow operations over the Coors Mile High Stadium, and traffic patrol helicopters along interstate 25. Lifeflight, Med-evac and local police helicopters are exempt from the restriction. The restriction is expected to last for the duration of the McVeigh trial.

Mark Twain (Hannibal) Bridge Ground Breaking: On April 4, a special ground breaking event was held for the Mark Twain (Hannibal) Bridge. Senator Bond, Congressmen Hulshof and Schimkus, Governor of IL, and mayor of Quincy attended. This project provides for the replacement of an existing structure built in 1934 which is no longer capable of meeting traffic demands. The Hannibal Bridge is an important link in the National Highway System and is crucial to Missouri's Future Interstate 72" efforts.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

NEXTEA Amplification

Secretary Slater, Modal Administrators and senior DOT staff continue to amplify President Clinton's transportation proposal throughout the country in speeches, constituency meetings, op-eds, media interviews, editorial board meetings and various events.

DOT celebrated its 30th Anniversary with the Secretary promoting President Clinton's transportation proposal in an intermodal tour throughout Baltimore with participation from Governor Glendening, Senator Sarbanes and Mukulski, Congressman Cummings, Mayor Schmoke and other Maryland officials. Additionally, the Secretary continues to meet with key congressional members and transportation reporters to discuss NEXTEA.

Deputy Secretary Downey testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee field hearing in New York City on April 7.

FHWA Acting Administrator Jane Garvey was the keynote speaker at the New England ISTE Summit in Springfield, MA on April 4. Garvey interviewed with the Springfield News and the Hampshire Gazette, as well as several radio stations.

FTA Administrator Gordon Linton has done NEXTEA editorial boards with the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Philadelphia Daily News.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez met with constituency groups including; the American Coalition for Traffic Safety; MADD; National Commission against Drunk Driving; National Safety Council; and Think First Foundation to discuss NEXTEA issues.

Bridge to Asia-Pacific

Japan: A third high-level exploratory meeting is scheduled to take place April 9-11 in Honolulu aimed at establishing a framework for resuming formal aviation negotiations.

Hong Kong: The first air services agreement between the United States and Hong Kong was signed in Hong Kong on April 7. This Agreement will continue to govern U.S.-Hong Kong air transportation relations following reversion of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in July 1997. The agreement, which was reached in 1995, was approved by PRC and UK authorities on March 21 and replaces the provisions on U.S.-Hong Kong services that were contained in the U.S.-U.K. Air Services Agreement.

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. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Mark L. Gerchick will attend the signing on behalf of the Department, and will deliver congratulatory remarks. We have initialed and hope to soon sign similar agreements with Brunei and Taiwan. Negotiations with Malaysia are proceeding rapidly.

Korea: "Open-Skies" aviation negotiations with Korea are expected to take

place in Washington in the last half of April.

Exports/Trade/Open Economy

Maritime Negotiations with Japan: Maritime Administrator VADM Herberger and Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt are leading the U.S. delegation meeting with Japan's Ministry of Transport to open Japan's port and harbor businesses to U.S. and other foreign firms. Japanese liner operators face FMC sanctions on their U.S. operations on April 14 unless progress is achieved. Discussions began on April 2 and are continuing.

Chile: Aviation 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 in progress 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.

European Union: On April 3-4, in Brussels, a U.S. delegation met with representatives of the European Union, to continue discussions begun October 30-31, 1996, regarding the possibility of a future aviation agreement. Both parties considered the discussions positive and informative. The United States presented its vision of liberalization of the transatlantic, based on our model open-skies agreement, followed by a mutual exploration of views on key issues. No plans were made at this time for future sessions. Delegations will consult internally and then with each other regarding future steps.

Safety

Operation Lifesaver: On April 1, 1997, the Ohio chapter of Operation Lifesaver launched a statewide Highways or Dieways rail-highway grade crossing safety campaign. This campaign was announced in simultaneous press conferences held in Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo. The campaign consists of TV, radio, and newspaper ads to educate drivers and pedestrians about the dangers posed while crossing, or trespassing on, railroad tracks. As part of this campaign, the Ohio State Highway Patrol announced that drivers will be ticketed for running crossings; warnings will no longer be given.

Welfare to Work

Welfare to Work Plan: The Departments Welfare to Work Plan is complete and has been forwarded to the White House. Elements of DOT's plan involve targeted recruitment, the preparation of managers and supervisors to work with these employees; providing these employees with up to a one-year ongoing organizational orientation; as well as providing counseling, mentoring and other supportive services to accommodate the needs of employees. DOT is committing to 200 opportunities for this initiatives.

The Department is also working to encourage the transportation industry to follow the leads of United and UPS in committing to hiring welfare recipients.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Safety and Security Hearing: On April 16, Federal Aviation Acting Administrator Barry Valentine will testify before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation on safety and security issues.

Drug Interdiction: On April 3, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime held a field hearing in San Juan, Puerto Rico on the Administrations drug interdiction policy. U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Kramek testified on behalf of the Department. Representatives from the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Customs Service also testified. The hearing was attended by Chairman Bill McCollum, Rep. Asa Hutchinson and Delegate Donna Christian-Green.

ISTEA Reauthorization: On April 7, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held an ISTEA reauthorization field hearing in New York City. Deputy Secretary Downey testified, along with Governor Christine Whitman, Governor George Pitaki, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and industry representatives. Senators Warner, Baucus, Moynihan, Lautenberg and DAmato attended.

Additionally, on April 21, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold the last of its five ISTEA field hearings in Providence, Rhode Island. Secretary Slater is scheduled to testify.

ISTEA hearings have been scheduled by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine for April 17 on the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program, for the week of April 21 on hazardous materials and for May 8. The Department has been asked to testify at these hearings.

Airbags and Child Restraints: The House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance is expected to schedule a hearing this month on airbags and child restraints. NHTSA Administrator Martinez is expected to testify.

Aviation Accident Policies and Procedures: On April 9, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on investigations of and responses to aviation accidents. FAA Associate Administrator for Regulation and Enforcement Guy Gardner and FAA Office of Investigations Director David Thomas will testify on behalf of the Department.

FY98 Senate Transportation Appropriations: On April 9, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies will hold a hearing on MARADs FY98 budget request. MARAD Administrator Herberger will testify.

On April 10, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation will hold a hearing on the Administrations NEXTEA reauthorization proposal. Department witnesses will be Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey, FTA Administrator Linton and NHTSA Administrator Martinez. The Subcommittee has also scheduled hearings for April 16 on aviation safety and security, and May 7 on user fees and innovative financing proposals. A witness from the FAA will testify on April 16, and Deputy Secretary Downey will testify on May 7.

Science in Rulemaking: On April 15, the House Small Business Subcommittee on Regulation and Paperwork and Subcommittee on Government Reform will hold a joint hearing on science in rulemaking and cost benefit and risk analyses. The Department has been invited to testify.

Safety Programs: The Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure is expected to hold a hearing the week of April 21 on NHTSA and FHWA safety programs. NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Acting FHWA Administrator Garvey will testify.

Aviation Insurance Program: On May 1, the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee 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 on behalf of the Department.

Secretary's Schedule

April 13-14
Secretary Slater will be in Seattle for APEC Conference and will participate in a volunteer week event.

April 15
Secretary will address the AFL-CIO in Washington, DC.

April 16
Secretary Slater will attend the Empowerment Conference in Detroit, MI.

April 17-21
Secretary Slater will travel in the Northeast on I-95, participating in many events from MD to ME.

April 21
Secretary Slater will participate in a field hearing requested by Senator Chaffee in Providence, RI.

Deputy Secretary

April 9
Deputy Secretary Downey will attend NPRs Annual Reinvention Conference in Bethesda, Maryland.

April 10

Deputy Secretary Downey will attend the Senior Executive Associations Presidential Rank Awards Banquet in Washington, DC

April 11

Deputy Secretary Downey will address the House Transit Caucus.

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 30 (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 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.

FTA Administrator Linton will testify on NEXTEA before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

April 11

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

FTA Administrator Linton will participate in a ground breaking for the Utah Transit Authority for the North/South light rail line in Salt Lake

City.

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.

FRA Administrator Jolene Molitoris will be the keynote speaker at the APTA Commuter Rail Conference in Dallas, TX.

April 13

FRA Administrator Molitoris and Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will participate in the FRAs Multi-Regional Conference in Pittsburg, PA.

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 15

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Paris, France, as a member of the American delegation to the international conference on Women Entrepreneurs in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

FRA Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will be the keynote speaker at the meeting of AASHTO standing committee on rail issues in Williamsburg, VA.

April 16

FTA Administrator Linton will speak on NEXTEA at the PA Public Transit Association Conference in Harrisburg, PA.

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.

Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Steve Palmer, will speak at the Democratic Members Retreat of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee 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.

FTA Administrator Linton will speak on NEXTEA at a Joint Development Symposium sponsored by FTA and the American Public Transit Association in Atlanta, GA.

FTA Administrator Linton will participate in a grant announcement with Secretary Slater for the Frankford Elevated Reconstruction Project in Philadelphia, PA.

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.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the Spring 97

COHMED Conference in Seattle, WA.

April 22-23

The FAA Acting Administrator, Barry Valentine, will speak at the FAA International Directors General meeting in LA, CA.

April 24-25

Department-wide retreat.

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

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

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.

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 1-2

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.

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

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 8-9

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 8

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

May 9

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

May 12

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.

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

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 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)

Nashville Scene requested information pertaining to Peter Freidmans Audit Reports of Anti-lock Braking System.

The Wall Street Journal requested an interview with the Inspector Generals Office.

FOIA REQUESTS

Accident report involving skydiving operations in Portage, Wisconsin on October 5, 1996 -- South Central Wisconsin Newspapers, Portage, Wisconsin

Near mid-air collision reports and runway incursions reports at Birmingham International Airport and Mobile Airport (Bates Field) from 1990 to the present -- WBRC TV Fox 6, Birmingham, Alabama

Surveillance records since 1990 of aircraft accidents, incidents and occurrences in the state of Arkansas; operational error reports since 1990 from the Dallas-Fort Worth and Memphis FAA ATC centers; airworthiness documents since 1990 of aircraft inspected in Little Rock, Fort Smith or Fayetteville; and operating budgets since 1990 for the FAA Arkansas Flight Safety Division Office -- Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ATC-pilot tapes involving the following incidents: Aviaca jet near Cove Neck Long Island on January 25, 1990; KAL Flight 062 near Bakersfield, California on April 3, 1996; Robinson helicopter N420MS in Long Beach, California on April 3, 1996; Asiana 284 at LAX Airport on July 27, 1995; Flight N192G in McAllen, Texas on April 4, 1995; Flight N9209Z near Tampa, Florida on April 15, 1992; Varig 851 in Chicago, Illinois on December 5, 1993; and ACES Flight 500 near Miami International Airport on February 6, 1995 -- American Journal

Flight manifests from 1978 to the present for Hangar Six, Washington Flight Program at National Airport and any other manifests for FAA flight programs around the nation -- The Center for Public Integrity, Washington, DC

Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 12-13, 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 12:23:38.00

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 ISTEA's 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
FAAs 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.

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 12:35:30.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report -- Week of May 26, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE May 21, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of May 26, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Operation ABC - Mobilizing America to Buckle Up Children: On May 19, Secretary Slater, Attorney General Reno, and Administrator Martinez kicked 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 D.C., event is hosted by the Air Bag Safety Campaign in cooperation with NHTSA. Time 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.

DOT and Interior Work Together for Quieter National Parks: On May 19, Secretary Slater and Interior Secretary Babbitt established a National Park Overflights Working Group to develop a plan to ensure the preservation of the natural quiet in the nation's parks.

Welfare to Work: On May 20, Secretary Slater participated in the White House unveiling of the Clinton administration's Welfare to Work initiative. At this meeting, the President announced the Welfare-to-Work Partnership to recognize those industries that have developed programs to hire welfare recipients. The President also announced grants being given to States by National Governors Association in cooperation with DOT to develop action plans addressing the transportation issues involved with welfare reform. Earlier that day, the Secretary, FTA Administrator, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and the Mayor of St. Louis addressed welfare, employment, and transportation constituencies about the transportation barriers facing welfare recipients trying to get to work and the proposals to support welfare reform in NEXTEA.

Pipeline Crack in Louisiana: On May 16, a pipeline owned by Texaco, under Lake Barre, LA cracked, spilling 210,000 gallons of crude oil into Lake Barre, a large body of water which opens into the Gulf of Mexico. The pipeline was repaired on May 17, and the cause is still under investigation. Texaco has assumed responsibility for the spill. The Coast Guard is on scene and overseeing the clean up efforts. Impacts to wildlife and fisheries have been minimal and are continuing to be monitored. The state Department of Health and Hospitals oyster harvest closure went into effect on May 21. Since the spill approximately 50,000 gallons have been recovered and 70,000 have evaporated. Seven skimmers, 54 vessels including barges and workboats along with 267 people have been involved in the cleanup. The source has been secured while the investigation continues. Local media interest is moderate.

Great Lakes Aviation: On May 17, Great Lakes Aviation, which operates as a commuter connection for many Great Lakes area cities agreed to suspend operations temporarily rather than be grounded by the FAA. FAA has found that the airline operated some unairworthy aircraft and that maintenance personnel were not properly trained. Under code-sharing agreements with United Airlines and Midway Airlines, Great Lakes Aviation operates as United Express and Midway Express. In addition, the airline provides service to 22 cities under Essential Air Service provisions.

Jammed Air Signals in Washington State: On May 21, there was an incident where the signals from the carrier, U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, jammed the signals at the Makah, Washington, radar site. The Makah radar site is one of many sites that feeds the Seattle Air Route Traffic Control Center. There was no impact on operations due to the early time of the incident. FAA is investigating with the Department of Defense to determine why the incident occurred because FAA has had a long-standing policy with DOD to avoid these types of situations.

TRACON Interruption: On May 20, the automated radar terminal system at the New York Terminal Radar Approach Control Facility had a computer interruption due to a software related problem. The FAA initiated ground stops on all departures and arrivals to reduce traffic in the system. Normal computer operations were resumed in about 15 minutes. There were aircraft delays as a result of this interruption. Further investigation into the cause of the interruption and software problem is ongoing.

Northwest Airlines Incident: On May 18, a passenger aboard NWA flight 57, Amsterdam to Newark, physically accosted two flight attendants. While attempting to subdue the passenger, the passenger reportedly hit his head against a flight attendant seat and was in and out of consciousness for the remaining 4 hours of the flight. Upon arrival at Newark the passenger was transported to University hospital where it was determined he had a blood alcohol content of .41%. It is reported that the passenger had been drinking alcohol that had been purchased in the Duty Free Shop. Because the extent of the passenger's injuries were unknown, the FBI asked that the aircraft be taken out of service until pictures and evidence could be obtained. The aircraft was out of service for approximately 8 hours. The FBI has charged the passenger with interference with a flight

crew and disorderly conduct.

Champion Air Incident: On May 19, Champion Air flight 721, a B-727, after landing at New Orleans, LA airport ran off the right side of Runway 28 about halfway down the runway. Visibility was 1/2 mile in a thunderstorm and heavy rain shower with winds gusting to 28 knots. The crew reported that after touchdown they entered heavy rain and could not see the runway. There were no injuries, and there is no visible damage to the airplane. However, the wheels have sunk into the mud and are not visible and the right wingtip is touching the ground. Investigations by FAA and the NTSB, who has classified the event as an incident, are continuing. On May 21, three cranes were moved to the airport and planking has been laid down close to the B-727. Extraction of the aircraft from the mud is underway. FAA inspectors are on the scene and will report on any additional damage to the aircraft as soon as the recovery operation is completed.

U.S. Coast Guard Commencement Address: On May 21, Secretary Slater will give the commencement address at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

Secretary Slater travels to West Virginia: On May 23, Secretary Slater will travel to Beckley, West Virginia to meet with Congressman Nick Rahall, Governor Cecil Underwood, Highway Commissioner Fred Van Kirk, local and community representatives, to discuss the Administration's NEXTEA proposal.

Cuban Flotilla: On May 17, the Cuban-American Movement for Democracy sponsored a flotilla event. The flotilla activities passed without incident. Less than optimum weather reduced the number of vessels and aircraft involved, to a lower level than expected. The organizers intend to stage this type of activity 2 or 3 more times prior to the Pope's visit to Cuba in January 1998. The FAA and Coast Guard will continue to monitor these types of activities.

Japan Transport Economics Research Center (JTERC): On May 20, the Deputy Secretary participated in the fourth Conference on U.S.-Japan Cooperation in Transportation. The conference was sponsored by JTERC in conjunction with the Ministry of Transport of the Government of Japan.

Grand Jury Scheduled on Certificate Falsification: The Assistant U.S. Attorney, Portland, OR, is taking to the Grand Jury the case of a Horizon Airlines mechanic who used a falsified certificate in work on Horizon Airlines aircraft for a period of 6 years. Over a hundred counts of violation will be sought for fraudulently certifying the return of aircraft to service. The case had been investigated by FAA security agents.

Grant Announcements. There were a number of grants announcements during the week of May 12. Those announcements are noted below.

On May 14, Secretary Slater announced the award of \$19.3 million for improvements at airports in New York State.

On May 14, Secretary Slater announced the first phase of a \$10.8 million

contract award to Devere Construction Company of Alpena, Michigan, to build 60 family housing units at the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

On May 13, Secretary Slater announced the award of \$13.2 million for improvements to airports in Ohio.

Deputy Secretary Downey, May 13, announced a grant of \$500,000 in FRA funds to Conrail, in partnership with CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads for the first phase of a positive train control (PTC) project on the rail corridor between Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Manassas, Virginia.

Second Safety Alert Distributed to Repair Stations: FAA Security, assisted by the Research and Special Programs Administration, distributed nearly 5000 flyers to repair stations nationwide. This was the second safety alert sent this year to remind repair stations that oxygen generators are prohibited on passenger aircraft. The flyer also clarifies transportation requirements for company material.

New Training for Explosives Detection K-9 Coordinators: On May 20-23, a group of training and canine specialists will work on developing new K-9 Program Management and basic courses at the Aeronautical Center, Oklahoma City, OK. The additional formal training is necessary for effective management of the FAA K-9 program, which will expand from 87 teams to approximately 250 teams by 1998.

Possible UPS Pilots Strike: There has been no change since last week. The National Mediation Board has not released the pilots from negotiations (which would start a thirty-day clock ticking toward a strike deadline) until possible self-help. The Pilots have voted to strike if agreement can not be reached and the Teamsters have stated their intention to honor the pilot's picket lines. About 80% of all surface-based small package shipments are handled by UPS.

NTSB Most Wanted List: On Tuesday, May 20, the NTSB met to discuss the updated "Most Wanted" list. There will be a number of aviation issues on the list, including Flight Data Recorders, and Fire Suppression and Detection in Class D compartments. NTSB is awaiting FAA rulemaking on both. They will also add Fuel Tank Modification (from the TWA 800 accident) and Airframe Icing Structure (from the Roselawn accident). Another issue will be airbag deactivation.

Cleveland Power Outage: On May 17, the MCI telephone company uninterruptible power source failed at the Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center for one hour and 12 minutes. The power problem resulted in approximately 200 aircraft delays.

National Civil Aviation Review Commission (NCAR): The National Civil Aviation Review Commission met on May 15-16. The Commission has an ambitious schedule and is being briefed on a number of FAA-related technical, operational, and financial issues. On May 28-29, the Commission will hold public hearings.

Coast Guard Seizes Marijuana: On May 14, a Coast Guard Law Enforcement

Detachment on board the USS FIREBOLT recovered 591 pounds of marijuana while patrolling off the coast of Aruba. No vessels or aircraft in the immediate area were suspected of abandoning the narcotics.

Cuban Migrant Interdiction: On May 15, 9 Cuban migrants were found on an island in the Bahamas by an aircraft from the Cuban-American group Brothers to the Rescue. The Coast Guard evacuated 6 by helicopter to Key West and transferred 3 to the Cutter DALLAS. The migrants claimed a total of 14 left Cuba on May 1 in a 20-foot boat; three others died and two more were lost at sea. The case generated considerable regional media coverage.

National Safe Boating Week (May 17 - 23): On May 17, National Safe Boating Week began. The **Peanuts** character, Snoopy, is the focus of the National Safe Boating Campaign. Snoopy will visit Washington, DC, to take an active role in spreading our most important campaign message: **LIFE JACKETS. They Float. You Don't.** Snoopy will also made an appearance at the DOT Open House event at the Nassif Building on May 19.

Global Analysis Information Network (GAIN) Conference: On May 27-28, at the request of the FAA, the Royal Aeronautical Society of the United Kingdom is sponsoring the second GAIN conference in London, England. GAIN addresses ways to share aviation information and specific information requirements and/or exchange safety analysis among aviation professionals worldwide to achieve the goal of zero accidents.

The Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Safety is investigating the following incidents: On May 15, a Union Pacific Freight Train, No. MHOBV-14, operating at a speed of 15 mph struck an automobile at a highway-rail grade crossing in Olmito, Texas, north of Brownsville. As a result of the collision, three motor vehicle occupants were killed. Warning devices consist of cross bucks only.

On May 18, an Alaska Railroad passenger train, consisting of two locomotives and 10 passenger coaches, operating at an estimated speed of 25 miles per hour, derailed the trailing locomotive and nine of the passenger cars at Cantwell, Alaska, 217 miles north of Anchorage. Only six of the 380 passengers on board were hospitalized for observation and released. Nearly 20 gallons of diesel fuel was released and has been contained.

On May 18 at an unknown time, the Thames River movable bridge, a bascule structure located at mile post 124.2 on the Northeast Corridor Mainline near New London, CT, became stuck in the closed position when pieces of the rack and pinion mechanism failed, apparently due to metal fatigue. The bridge was locked for railroad traffic and no delays to trains occurred. However, significant delays to larger river traffic vessels, including U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy vessels, were occurring. The bridge was repaired by Amtrak by noon on May 20th.

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.

Ukraine: A new U.S.-Ukraine air services agreement was initialed in

meetings held in Washington, May 12-16. The agreement is liberal, with annexes containing restrictions in such areas as designations, frequencies, doing business and charters.

Korea: The U.S. and Korea will begin talks in Seoul` on May 21 to begin negotiations for an open skies agreement between the U.S. and Korea.

Emergency Relief in Idaho and South Dakota: FHWA damage assessment teams, working together with State and local engineers, have estimated the damage on the Federal-aid system caused by landslides in March at \$4 million. In South Dakota, detailed inspections are complete and include 46 of South Dakota's 66 counties. As of May 14, there were more than 300 reports completed, with an estimated damage amount of more than \$15 million.

ITOP 8(a) Award: The Department of Transportation (DOT) announced award of a six year, \$32 million competitive effort for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to provide Information Technology services. The effort was awarded under the DOT Information Technology Omnibus Procurement (ITOP) program. Signal, an 8(a) contractor, along with its subcontractors, Dyncorp and RMS Technologies, Inc., will be providing helpdesk, software development, network operations and mainframe operations support services to FERC.

Tahoe Basin Event: On May 13-16, DOT staff accompanied an interagency team to Lake Tahoe to plan logistics for the issues workshops that will precede the July 25-26 visits from the Vice President and the President. These cabinet-level workshops will address issues critical to sustain the Tahoe Basin's travel and tourism economy. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will host a water quality workshop on June 18. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior will host a forest management workshop in June 30. The transportation workshop, hosted by Secretary Slater, will be scheduled for Reno, Nevada in late June or early July.

COSCO's U.S. Port Arrangements: MARAD researched and provided background information on COSCO's (China Ocean Shipping Corporation) leasing arrangements in ports throughout the United States. The information was prepared at the request of the Department of Treasury (through OST) in connection with COSCO's proposed lease of berthing facilities at Long Beach, CA.

Wireless Call to Action: NHTSA and the Federal Communications Commission, May 21, will co-sponsor a Wireless Call to Action meeting to mobilize national health, medical and public safety organizations to support local use of wireless 911.

National Maritime Day Activities: On May 22 the Merchant Marine Memorial Service will be held at 11 am in the Hubert Humphrey Building. The Maritime Administrator will address the ceremonies along with Congressional, Industry and Labor representatives.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

SHIPBUILDING

Shipbuilding Initiative - Shipyard Loan Guarantee: On May 9, the Maritime Administrator approved the Title XI application of HAM Marine, Inc., (HMI), of Pascagoula, MS, for shipyard modernization construction facilities for constructing new and refurbishing existing offshore drilling units. The guarantee amount approved is \$24,817,000 (87.5 percent of the estimated Actual Cost) for a 15-year term. The project is planned for completion by the end of 1998.

EDUCATION

Garrett A. Morgan Education Roundtable: This week, Secretary Slater extended an invitation to more than 3,000 members of the transportation community to support the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program by joining the Garrett A. Morgan Education Roundtable. This Roundtable will work to advance the math, science and technology skills of 1 million students by the year 2000 by, among other things: supporting national efforts to expand tutoring and mentoring; taking an inventory of a wide range of educational tools and opportunities and making it available to the public; hosting workshops to bring together all levels of government, private sector, and the education community. Secretary Slater, RSPA Deputy Administrator Kelley S. Coyner and FRA Administrator Jolene Molitoris will be joined by members of Congress, Cleveland Mayor White, executives from several partner corporations, and other leaders in the education community to kickoff the program on May 30 in Cleveland, OH. The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program supports the President's Service and Education initiatives and was presented as DOT's commitment to the President's Summit for America's Future.

ENVIRONMENT

EPA Air Quality Standards: DOT is continuing to participate in interagency discussions on EPA proposals for revised ozone and particulate matter (PM) ambient air quality standards. DOT provided remaining materials to Congressman Bliley who has requested submission of DOT internal materials on the NAAQS proposals from the period between December 1996, when the proposed rules were issued, and March 1997.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

FY97 Appropriations Supplemental: House and Senate conferees are expected to meet on May 20 to consider the differences in their respective versions of the \$8.4 billion supplemental spending bill. The most controversial provision is the automatic continuing resolution over which the President has vowed to veto the bill.

Barriers to Entry in the Aviation Industry: On May 13, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing on barriers to entry in the aviation industry. Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt testified. Issues discussed included the loss of service by major carriers to rural areas since deregulation of the airline industry in 1978; the resulting rise in ticket prices for flights to rural areas; and barriers to entry that included

slots, the perimeter rule, long-term exclusive-use gates and marketing strategies of dominant airlines. Senator Ron Wyden was especially critical of the Administration's AIP funding proposal for FY98. No Member was particularly critical of the Department, although Chairman John McCain was regretful that Mr. Hunnicutt had not expressed the Department's view regarding the perimeter rule.

Medical Kits on Commercial Airlines: On May 21, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing on medical kits on commercial airlines. Issues raised by the Subcommittee included the liability concerns of doctors and flight attendants who might be called upon to use defibrillators on stricken passengers; flight attendants' preparedness to take on the added responsibilities of enhanced medicine and medical-emergency equipment; and the need for standardized medical kits and medical emergency training. FAA Air Surgeon Jon Jordan testified.

Department of Transportation Major Management and Program Weaknesses: On May 21, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing on the Department's major management and program weaknesses. Deputy Secretary Downey testified.

NHTSA Oversight and Reauthorization: On May 22, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection will hold a hearing on oversight and reauthorization of the NHTSA. NHTSA Administrator Martinez and Deputy Administrator Recht will testify. Other witnesses will include representatives from the automobile industry and consumer groups.

Commercial Ventures in Space: On May 22, the House Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics will hold a hearing on promotion of commercial ventures in space. FAA Deputy Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Patti Smith will testify.

ISTEA Legislation Introduced: On May 13, Representative Susan Molinari introduced H.R. 1081, ISTEA Works legislation. The bill has more than 40 co-sponsors and seeks to preserve the basic framework of ISTEA and protect funding levels for many northeastern and/or downstate states. The measure is a companion bill to S.586, introduced in April by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

ISTEA Developments: Senators Daniel Inouye and Frank Lautenberg are working individually to develop legislation to continue the existing ferryboat program. A separate category of funding was not included in the Administration's NEXTEA proposal although eligibility in other categories was expanded to include this program.

Divisions among Senate Environment and Public Works members on ISTEA reauthorization are becoming sharper. Several minority members who support ISTEA are concerned about the growing alliance between Senators Max Baucus and John Warner. Chairman John Chafee is reportedly meeting individually with members to try to develop some consensus and to shape a bill.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff report that progress on the committee bill has stalled as discussions on funding levels and the budget resolution take precedence. An amendment to the budget resolution will be offered to increase highway and transit funding. Efforts to resolve disagreements over policy and program issues have been mostly set aside for now. It is hoped that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee bill will be ready for review sometime in June.

During consideration of the emergency supplemental bill, Senator Warner offered an amendment to change the funding distribution contained in the bill in response to the Treasury error in reporting income to the Highway Trust Fund. Following acrimonious debate, the measure failed by a 46-54 vote, which mirrored the states that would have won or lost funds. During the debate, several members said it was the first round of the donor-donee battle on ISTEA reauthorization legislation.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff have a renewed interest in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and the status of the pending rule. Minority staff advise that a briefing as soon as possible on the rule may be critical in helping to get a provision extending the program into the Committee's ISTEA reauthorization bill.

Secretary's Schedule

May 22

Secretary Slater will address the Propeller Club in Washington, D.C..

Secretary Slater will participate in a NEXTEA event in WV with Congressman Nick Rahall.

May 30

Secretary Slater will announce the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program in Cleveland, OH.

The Deputy Secretary

May 22

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

May 28

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the 4th North American Aviation Tri-Lateral Conference.

May 29-30

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

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

May 20

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will speak at the Japan Transportation Research Center's 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 deliver the keynote luncheon address to the American Railway Development Association's 88th annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

FAA Acting Deputy Administrator Belger will speak at the dedication of DCCR equipment in FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center in Jacksonville, FL.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will attend a Great Lakes Maritime Task Force Breakfast 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 Graykowski 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.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will participate in Maritime Day in Duluth, MN.

May 26

FTA Administrator Linton will travel to Curitiba, Brazil, with an American entourage, 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 in Vienna, Austria.

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.

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 USCG's Ninth District in Cleveland, OH.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will participate in the Amtrak Board of Directors meeting in Fort Lauderdale, 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 Lieber 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.

SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders will host the Garrett A. Morgan roll-out program and present the Seaway's 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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 Board's 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.

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 Amtrak's 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.

August 3-6

BTS Director Lakshmanan will participate in the 67th Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

Media Inquiries

On May 14, Harold Aikens in the Office of Legal Counsel provided further information to the Tulsa World about the use of offensive names in the bridge inventory.

Associated Press, New Jersey Star Ledger. Requested comment on Rep. Menendez's remarks about the legality of the Coast Guard's enforcement of

the South Florida Security Zone. The Coast Guard's response was coordinated with the Department of State and National Security Council.

Fisher Television Washington Bureau (KOMO Seattle). Requested information on the status of the Coast Guard's investigation into the sinking of the Quillayute, WA motor lifeboat and death of 3 Coast Guardsmen.

The Washington Post inquired about FTA's involvement in the Dulles Rail Study.

Wingspan News requested an OIG report on FAA's Oversight of ValuJet that was mentioned in the Washington Post (OIG provided no information).

Dallas Star Ledger requested information on fingerprinting as a means to prevent fraud (referred to the FBI).

Rocky Mountain News requested a definition of revitalization pay for FAA Air Traffic Controllers (referred to FAA).

Fisher TV Stations requested information on any OIG action resulting from the capsizing of a USCG motor life boat earlier this year. They were informed OIG has no ongoing action in this matter.

Aviation Daily requested clarification of a press release on an indictment for fraud in Aviation parts.

Aviation Daily requested information on Great American Airways.

Reporters from the Associated Press, Washington Post and the Detroit Dailies asked for additional information on NHTSA's plans for consumer information as announced in a press release May 14. Deputy Administrator Philip Recht responded.

Washington Post: Reporters David Ottaway and Warren Brown have been working for several weeks on a major two-part feature on air bags, their history and future. The story is not expected until late in May. Warren Brown indicates that they are waiting for action on the deactivation rule.

Dateline NBC: Reporter Mike Causner interviewed Administrator Ricardo Martinez on May 9 for a future segment on drowsy drivers, highlighting new technology to deal with the problem. Date of airing is unknown. He also asked about offset crash testing, and may use the answer in the recurring Dateline crash testing feature with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Government Executive: On Friday, May 16, Administrator Martinez was interviewed by Government Executive magazine on "culture change in a government agency" detailing his experience as a physician with a different perspective on automobile injury.

KIRO Seattle: On May 8, NHTSA Region 10 was interviewed by CBS affiliate KIRO TV in Seattle regarding potential public concern resulting from the inadvertent deployment of an air bag in a 1996 Chevrolet Caprice. The Region indicated that this was an isolated incident which should not

elicit undue public concern, but that it should be reported to the dealership as well as to the Auto Safety Hotline and the Office of Defect Investigations.

CBS Evening News is requesting an on-camera interview with NHTSA Administrator Martinez regarding drowsy driving. The interview has not been scheduled yet. The story is prompted by a trial in Massachusetts.

NBC Dateline interviewed NHTSA Administrator Martinez May 9 for a future segment on drowsy drivers, highlighting technology to deal with the problem. Air date is unknown.

NBC Dateline has asked NHTSA for information about rollover research and where rollover ranks as a cause of fatalities in vehicle crashes. The reporter is in the research stage, so it is too soon to forecast an air date.

AP is working on a story, possibly for this week, on the relationship between Members of Congress and corporations and access to National Airport where landing is controlled by a slot system for commercial traffic and a first-come, first-served reservation system is used for private/corporate traffic.

The Wall Street Journal interviewed SLSDC Deputy Administrator Sanders May 14 for a possible story on the PBO proposal.

The New York Times is preparing an article on FAA's methodology for tracking Operational Errors at New York Center. Reporter will interview FAA Director of Air Traffic Service May 20.

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 will interview FAA director of Aircraft Certification Service May 23.

Dateline NBC is preparing a segment on grade crossing safety from the engineer's 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.

FOIA REQUESTS

NASIP, RASIP and Enforcement Investigation Reports since January 1, 1996 for Delta Air Lines -- The Wall Street Journal

Accident report for Air India Flight 182 that exploded off the coast of Ireland after leaving Canada for Bombay in 1985 -- Southam News, Ontario, Canada

Letters written on behalf of Craig W. Davis to Director Harris office in
April 1992 -- Los Angeles Times

AVR Business Plan for FY 98 -- Inside Washington Publishers

Point of Contact: For the weekend of May 24-26, 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 12:17:13.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of April 21, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE April 16, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of April 21, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Secretary Releases National Seat Belt Strategy: On April 16, Secretary Slater released a national strategy to bring U.S. seat belt use to 85 percent by the year 2000. Secretary Slater was joined by several former Secretaries of Transportation and a broad coalition of leaders from government, safety organizations and business which have pledged to assist the effort to reduce deaths and injuries by increasing the use of seat belts. Seat belt use nationwide increased rapidly from 14 percent 15 years ago to 68 percent in 1996, but has risen very slowly in recent years. However, 6 states, CA, HI, NM, NC, OR, and WA, have already increased seat belt use to 80 percent or greater, demonstrating that the goal is within reach. Seat belt use in many other industrialized countries exceeds 85 percent. In Australia, Germany and Canada, seat belt use exceeds 90 percent.

Helicopter Accident in NYC: On April 15, a Bolkow BK-117 helicopter operated by Colgate Palmolive Company landed at the edge of the helipad in New York City and rolled into the East River. The 2 passengers died and the pilot and copilot received serious injuries. NTSB and the FAA are investigating.

Response to Midwest Flooding Continues: On April 11, Vice President Gore and Secretary Slater flew to the flood scene to join FEMA Director James Lee Witt in assessing the situation. Their trip included visits to Fargo, ND, Watertown, SD, and Moorhead, MN. Rain and melting snow continue to create severe flooding conditions in ND, SD and MN. Ice-jams are blocking the water flow on the Buffalo, Floodwood, and Minnesota Rivers in MN, the Red River in ND, and the James River in SD creating flooding above the jams. Rivers and streams throughout the area are expected to crest during mid-April, and scattered local roads and freight and passenger rail service are being affected with closures and the rerouting of traffic.

Earth Day Events: On April 22, Secretary Slater is tentatively scheduled for an event with the North Virginia Development Team. This public/private partnership plants trees, preserves topsoil and works on other roadway improvements. The Secretary would join this group and possibly Americorps volunteers to plant some trees. Additionally, the Development Team is one of 16 projects scheduled to be presented with an "Excellence in Environment Award" from FHWA. These awards are done annually on Earth Day. If time permits, the Secretary will open the award ceremony. In addition, on April 17 during the NE Tour, the Secretary will welcome a group of bike riders led by Assistant Secretary Louise Stoll in Philadelphia. Secretary Slater is planning on riding the final mile of the Valley Forge Bicycle Trail to the Philadelphia Art Museum. This event will help emphasize the commitment of the Administration by the use of FHWA funds to establish and maintain bicycle trails.

Garrett A. Morgan Transportation and Technology Futures Program: The Department is in the process of establishing the Garrett A. Morgan Program to support the Presidents ten point education plan. The goals of this program 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. Secretary Slater and RSPA Deputy Administrator Kelley S. Coyner will join representatives from Federal, state and local governments and the education partnership community to kickoff the program in Cleveland, OH in May. The First Lady has been invited to attend.

Seattle/APEC: On April 14, Deputy Secretary Downey addressed the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ministers in Seattle, WA. While in Seattle, he also met with a Seattle editorial board and held an event amplifying NEXTEA.

National Volunteerism Week Event in Seattle: On April 14, Deputy Secretary Downey visited with students and volunteers from the Marine Technology Program which is associated with the Highline, Federal Way, and South Central School Districts. Representatives from the Coast Guard, NOAA, and maritime industries have served as volunteers to help prepare these students for jobs in the maritime industry. The Deputy Secretary toured the facility and met with students from the program as well as volunteers from the Marine Skills Advisory Center. There was local media coverage.

Vice President Gore, Empowerment Zones: On April 16, Secretary Slater joined Vice President Gore in Detroit, MI for the Third White House Community Empowerment Conference. While in MI, the Secretary also attended a breakfast hosted by Mayor Archer and attended by the CEOs of the big three automobile companies.

New Car Assessment Program Side Impact Results Released: The first 17 new car assessment program (NCAP) side impact test results were released on Friday, April 11. This is the first time that side impact results have been a part of the NCAP tests. The results are for model year 1997. The story was carried on the NBC, ABC and CBS morning shows. A video news release was sent up on satellite later in the morning. The story also

received coverage on the CBS Evening News. The Buying A Safer Car, brochure with the first side impact test results will be available to the public the week of April 14.

Surface Transportation Safety Legislation: The Bill, which contains elements addressing Traffic Safety, Hazardous Materials Reauthorization, Underground Damage Prevention, Sanitary Food Transportation, Rail Anti-Terrorism and Rail Safety, is scheduled to be sent to Congress April 17. The proposal contains increased funding for incentive programs to encourage States to, among other things, enact primary seat belt use laws. The Bill includes a soft sanctioning provision that would transfer funds from a State's highway construction fund to its highway safety fund, beginning in FY 2003, if, by September 30, 2002, the State had not enacted primary seat belt use laws. This provision will not apply if the State achieves an 85 percent seat belt use rate. Policy is coordinating testimony and briefing materials for April 24 hearing.

Intermodal Northeast Tour to Amplify NEXTEA. Secretary Slater, April 17-21, will observe highway, rail, transit, air and port facilities in ten northeast states, and testify on April 21 at a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee field hearing on NEXTEA in Rhode Island. The Secretary will announce FTA Grants totaling \$146 million. A schedule of events and announcements is included in this report.

National Drive Safely at Work Week: On April 17, at the Washington D.C., Press Club, Secretary Slater will be the featured speaker at a media event to publicize the April 20-26 National Drive Safely at Work Week (NDS@WW). Companies across America have agreed to promote awareness during the week and to implement programs from the NDS@WW Planner. NDS@WW will feature a series of daily safety messages (drunk and aggressive driving, speeding, safety belts, air bags, share the road with large trucks, etc.). NDS@WW is sponsored by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS), a public/private partnership supported by NHTSA and FHWA. In addition, NIOSH and OSHA are supporting members. Private sector members include representatives of the vehicle manufacturers, and the insurance and trucking industries.

Salt Lake City Light Rail Ground Breaking and Grant Announcements: On April 11, Federal Transit Administrator Linton traveled to Salt Lake City to participate in a ground breaking for the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) for the TRAX light rail line. FTA Administrator Linton also participated in the announcement of a \$5.5 million grant for 28 new buses and a \$4.7 million grant for the third increment of the full funding agreement for 23 light rail transit cars, equipment, and construction of park-and-ride lots. The FTA Administrator also met with the Olympic Organizing Committee on transportation plans for the 2002 Olympic Games. In addition, the FTA Administrator met with the editorial boards of the Salt Lake Tribune and Salt Lake Deseret News. An op ed piece by Administrator Linton appeared in the Tribune on NEXTEA on April 9.

I-15 Project in Utah: On April 15, a ceremony was held in Salt Lake City, UT to launch a major reconstruction of 17 miles of I-15 in preparation for the Winter Olympics in February, 2002. The project will take 4 « years to complete at a cost of

\$1.59 billion, the largest individual contract ever awarded in the history of the interstate highway system. This is a design-build project which combines innovative contracting techniques that decrease construction time by 50%. In addition, FHWA's innovative financing team is working with state and the private sector to develop financing strategies to leverage federal dollars. FHWA acting Administrator Jane Garvey attended along with Governor Leavitt, Mayor Corradini, and other state and local officials.

European Conference of Ministers of Transport: Deputy Secretary Mortimer L. 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.

U.S.-Japan Maritime Port Talks: On April 11, the U.S. and Japan successfully concluded lengthy talks in Washington to resolve the dispute about restrictive Japanese port practices. Japan's current port practices discriminate against foreign carriers. Negotiations were subsequently conducted by an interagency working group and successfully concluded on Friday April 10. Under the terms of the agreement, Japan will now begin to grant licenses to foreign carriers to operate marine terminals and stevedoring services. Japan's current system for prior consultation on port activities will also be significantly reformed, in separate discussions between now and July 31. The successful negotiations have been communicated to the Federal Maritime Commission.

Barge Capsizes in Houston Channel: On April 10, a tug and barge tow in the Houston Ship Channel was swamped by two passing tankers. One barge capsized, dumping 6 containers of zinc bromide, a crystalline solid used in the photography and medical industries. Following restricted vessel traffic control measures and an extensive search by the Army Corps of Engineers, the submerged containers were found and marked with buoys. Salvage operations began on April 14.

Collision with Pollution off Louisiana: On April 11, the Cypriot freighter FLORA collided with the Liberian tanker FORMOSA SIX off the Mississippi River delta. The FLORA damaged its bow and the double-hulled FORMOSA SIX experienced a gash in its hull. Soundings of the FORMOSA SIX's tanks indicated that roughly 406,000 gallons of ethylene dichloride, and acutely toxic flammable liquid, spilled. The FORMOSA SIX remains anchored off the coast. Lightering commenced the week of April 14. A USCG investigation pends, and the NTSB has been notified.

Barge Collides with Chemical Tanker on Mississippi River: On April 13, two barges, each loaded with 20,000 barrels of crude oil, broke loose from their tow and hit the moored chemical tanker STOLT VIKING, near Baton Rouge, LA. The STOLT VIKING suffered a hole above the waterline but, so far, no pollution has been reported. The Coast Guard is investigating.

FAA Revokes Certificate: On April 13, the FAA issued an emergency order revoking the air carrier certificate of Target Airways LTD of Reno, flying

as Great American Airways. The order is based on numerous findings including falsification of flight and duty time records, falsification of training records, and falsifying load manifest documents.

Survey Allowed In India: After more than 1 year of negotiations, the Civil Aviation Authority of India will allow U.S. airline inspections and a site survey of the New Delhi International Airport in April. The term site survey substitutes for assessment because of Indias sensitivity of the word used in context of sovereignty.

U.S.Chile Aviation Talks: U.S. and Chilean officials concluded two days of open-skies talks in Chile the week of April 7. U.S. representatives fielded questions about the open-skies framework, and the two sides agreed to meet again on the issue in the Fall, although no date was set.

U.S.Italy Aviation Talks: U.S. and Italy concluded two days of open skies talks in Italy the week of April 7. The two sides agreed to meet again on the issue in the Fall, although no date was set.

U.S.Brazil Passenger Air Service: The Department made final its award of authority to Delta and Continental to begin new passenger air service to Brazil from Atlanta and New York, respectively. This award allows U.S. airlines to begin using the new rights negotiated by Brazil and the U.S.

Explosives Detection Program: As of April 10, 15 of 19 Category X Airports have completed the Cooperative Agreements for the new FAA program. Of the remaining four airports, Los Angeles International Airport and John F. Kennedy International Airport have provided letters of intent and are expected to sign the Cooperative Agreement in the near future. Baltimore Washington International Airport intends to join the program and Detroit Metro Airport is still evaluating the agreement, but is expected to join. The annual recertification of teams at 35 airports under the old K-9 program is proceeding well with 5 of the 35 evaluations completed. All teams presented for evaluation thus far have passed and been recertified.

Safety Barriers on the George Washington Parkway (GWMP): Competitive bids for the installation of median guardrail along the northern section of the GWMP were received April 10. This Federal Lands Highway has experienced a large number of fatal accidents in the last few months. Contract work is expected to begin on schedule by May 1.

Woodrow Wilson Bridge Meeting: On April 9, Secretary Slater and Acting Federal Highway Administrator Garvey met with the four Senators and with seven Representatives from the Virginia and Maryland delegation to discuss future initiatives regarding the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Members urged the use of additional funds for a new facility and expressed strong opposition to any option involving the use of tolls. The Secretary will next meet with Governor Allen and Governor Glendening.

Letter to Governors on Seat Belt Use: On April 8, Secretary Slater, NTSB Chairman Hall, Senator McCain, Senator Hollings and 7 other Members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee signed a letter to the 50 Governors urging the states to increase motorists use of

seat belts. The letter discussed ways to increase seat belt use and emphasized the importance of seat belt law enforcement. The letter also listed increased penalties and increased visibility of enforcement.

Full Bag Match Test: A draft of the proposed data collection procedures for Phase II of the Bag Match Study was delivered to Air Transport Association last week for comment. ATA has agreed on a plan to begin the bag match pilot test next month. The draft final report is to be delivered by June 30.

FRONTIER SHIELD Cocaine Seizure: On April 13, Coast Guard, interagency forces, and authorities from St Kitts and Nevis teamed up in response to a drug airdrop near the island of St Kitts. A Coast Guard helicopter later recovered 300 lbs of cocaine in the vicinity of the island. No arrests have been made.

OP COLOMBUS 1-97: On 21-25 April, the U.S. Coast Guard, Colombian Navy, and Colombian Coast Guard will conduct OP COLOMBUS 1-97. This law enforcement operation, which includes the Cutter RESOLUTE, will employ joint bilateral patrols with the Colombian Navy off the coast of that country. The Coast Guard Advisor to Colombia and the Coast Guard International Training Detachment are also working closely with the Colombians on this operation.

Cutter Interdicts Polish Migrants: On April 8, the Cutter CHANDELEUR boarded a boat off Miami with 2 apparent Polish migrants. The migrants were turned over to the INS under the expedited removal process. This is the first case processed under the expedited removal regulations which became effective on April 1, 1997.

Inspector General Nomination: On April 9, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a hearing to consider the nomination of Kenneth Mead as Inspector General of the Department. Chairman McCain expressed his appreciation for Mr. Meads qualifications and his willingness to work with Congress and Secretary Slater. Senators Wendell Ford and Conrad Burns also expressed support for the nomination. The Committee is expected to consider the nomination during the week of April 14.

McDonald, Sharma. On April 11, Secretary Slater announced that Gail C. McDonald, the seventh administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and the first woman chief of the agency, will resign May 1 to pursue other interests. In addition, on April 14, Secretary Slater announced that Dr. Dharmendra Sharma Administrator of RSPA will resign July 1 to pursue other interests.

California Enacts Section 159 Legislation: As of April 14, both houses of the California Legislature passed amended versions of bills which will put them in compliance with Section 159. In a letter to Secretary Slater, the Governor assured him he would sign the bills as soon as they were in his possession.

Secretary's Intermodal Tour from DC to Maine Amplifying NEXTEA

Secretary Slater's Intermodal Tour: On April 17-21, the Secretary will be traveling for 5 days in a Northeast intermodal tour which will cover 10 states and amplify NEXTEA. The tour will include the recognition of Earth Day and National Service Week. Safety will also be highlighted throughout the tour.

April 17

District of Columbia: The Secretary will kickoff this 5-day Multi-modal tour with the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) event at the National Press Club. The Secretary will present a Presidential proclamation declaring April 20 - 26 as National Drive Safely at Work Week. He will board AMTRAK and see Operation Respond - Emergency Response Demonstration. The President of AMTRAK, Tom Downs, will join the Secretary for much of the rail travel on this tour.

Maryland: The Secretary will visit the Baltimore Civil War Museum which features history of African Americans use of underground railroads. Local, State and federal elected officials have been invited to accompany him. On Board AMTRAK, the Secretary will meet with Delaware Governor, Tom Carper, and State DOT Secretary, Anne Canby.

Delaware: Secretary Slater will visit Wilmington, DE and participate in an Outreach session with 40 city, county and State representatives. He will also tour the proposed Riverfront Economic Development project.

Pennsylvania: Secretary Slater will be in Philadelphia and will recognize Earth Day by joining a team of bicyclists as they conclude 21 mile trek. He will be the keynote speaker at PENJERDEL, a regional public/private organization with membership that includes Transportation, Business and Community leaders. Mayor Rendell will participate. In his remarks the Secretary will emphasize the upcoming Presidents Summit for Americas Future, as well as, highlight Americorps successes in the region.

April 18

Pennsylvania: The Secretary will tour Old North Philadelphia Train Station which is an Economic Redevelopment project. Rep. Foglietta will attend.

Secretary Slater will make 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.

New York: Secretary Slater will make a FTA Grant Announcement of \$6 million to NYMTA in Brooklyn at the Jackie Gleason Bus Depot to make modifications to the depot that will allow for the operation of buses fueled by compressed natural gas.

Secretary Slater will travel to Queens to make a FTA Grant Announcement of \$35 million which is the final increment in federal funding to MTA. The project consists of the connection between the 63rd St. tunnel and the Queens Blvd subway line. Seven Members of Congress have been invited to

attend.

The Secretary will travel to Harlem to tour a Livable Community, Frederick Douglass Circle which includes transit, highway, and a park.

April 19

New Hampshire: The Secretary will attend a breakfast meeting hosted by Governor Jeanne Shaheen and State and local leaders. Senators Smith and Gregg and Representatives Sununu and Bass are invited to participate.

Massachusetts: Secretary Slater will amplify National Service Week by participating in Recognition of AmeriCorps at an event with young people who provide aid to the needy.

Maine: The Secretary will travel to Portland and amplify ongoing welfare to work initiatives in transportation by visiting with recipients/providers including the Portland-South Portland Bridge project and Aspire Program. Rep. Tom Allen will attend. The Secretary will travel to Auburn to meet with State, local and federal officials at Intermodal Freight Transfer facility. Rep. John Baldacci will join.

April 20

Connecticut: The Secretary will be joined in New Haven by Senator Lieberman in a Groundbreaking event. I-95 is being reconstructed in the Bridgeport area. This \$410 million undertaking involves five projects. This groundbreaking recognizes the largest of the five projects at \$106 million and is just about to start construction.

April 21

Rhode Island: Secretary Slater will travel to Providence and will testify at a hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee chaired by Senator Chafee.

New Jersey: In Newark the Secretary will make 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. Senator Lautenberg, Rep. Pacrell, and Rep. Rothman have been invited to attend. The Secretary will attend the ground breaking of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail line. Secretary Slater will tour the Air Traffic Control Tower and meet with employees at Newark International Airport. The air traffic control tower at Newark has been involved in one of the most significant productivity improvements in the National Airspace System over the last several years. Through cooperation between FAA controllers, managers, and airline officials, new procedures have been implemented which have led to a 35% reduction in the number of delays at Newark. 33 FAA controllers work at the Newark Tower, which handles over 450,000 operations per year.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Bridge to Asia-Pacific

Japan: A session of exploratory aviation talks took place April 9-11 in Honolulu. At this meeting, the third such meeting to be held since January, the two sides continued to exchange specific ideas that could provide a basis for resuming formal negotiations. No plans were made for further talks but the two sides agreed to be in contact with the intention to continue discussions.

Korea: On April 4, Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark L. Gerchick and Deputy Director of International Aviation Ed Oppler met with Korean officials in a meeting preliminary to open-skies negotiations which are anticipated to take place in May. The meeting was useful in identifying issues that need to be resolved to conclude an open-skies agreement.

Environmental Safety

On April 16, the Coast Guard Headquarters Command Center will host a high level Mexican delegation, headed by Mr. Jose Luis Calderon Bartheneuf, Environmental Audit Under secretary. Sponsored by the EPA as part of the Sister Cities Project, the delegation will receive training and familiarization on the duties and responsibilities of the Coast Guards National Response Center.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

FY97 Appropriations Supplemental: On April 23, the House Appropriations Committee is expected to markup a supplemental appropriations measure to provide funding for disaster relief in several states. Included in the request is \$276m for the FHWA to revamp highways damaged during winter floods.

ISTEA Reauthorization: On April 7, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a field hearing in New York City on ISTEA reauthorization. Deputy Secretary Downey testified, along with Governor Christine Whitman, Governor George Pataki, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and industry representatives. The hearing was attended by Senators Warner, Baucus, Moynihan, Lautenberg and DAmato.

On April 21, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold the last of five ISTEA field hearings in Warwick, Rhode Island. Secretary Slater will testify.

On April 23, the House Science Subcommittee on Technology will hold a hearing on research and development initiatives in Title VI of ISTEA. The Department is not expected to testify.

The Secretary is expected to testify on the proposed NEXTEA safety title before the full Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on April 24, and the full Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on May 1.

On May 8, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine will hold a hearing on ISTEA. The Department will not testify.

Science in Rulemaking: On April 15, the House Small Business Subcommittee on Regulation and Paperwork and Subcommittee on Government Reform held a joint hearing on science in rulemaking and the use of cost benefit and risk analyses in the regulatory process. Dr. Aviva Brecher, Senior Technology and Policy Analyst in the Transportation Strategic Planning and Analysis Office at the Volpe Center, testified.

Airbags and Child Restraints: 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 Aviation Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee 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.

Administration's NEXTEA Proposal Introduced: On Thursday, April 10, the Administration's NEXTEA proposal was introduced by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Oberstar, and by Subcommittee on Surface Transportation Chairman Petri and Ranking Member Rahall, by request. The bill, H.R. 1268, was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

Other ISTEA Legislation Introduced: On Wednesday, April 9, Senator Max Baucus introduced STARS 2000", an ISTEA reauthorization bill that provides \$26 billion in highway funding. In an effort to streamline the program, the proposal directs 60 percent of the funding to the National Highway System and 40 percent to the Surface Transportation Program. Several environmental groups opposed the introduction of the bill because of cuts in funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program and elimination of the ISTEA emphasis on maintenance.

Secretary's Schedule

April 16

Secretary Slater will attend the Empowerment Conference in Detroit, MI.

April 17-21

Secretary Slater will travel in the Northeast on I-95, participating in many events from MD to ME.

April 21

Secretary Slater will participate in a field hearing requested by Senator Chafee in Providence, RI.

April 22

Secretary will participate in Earth Day activities in Northern VA.

April 24-25

Secretary Slater will hold a Department of Transportation Retreat in Warrenton, VA.

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 30 (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 19-21

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, John Horsley, 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 20-23

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Frank Kruesi, will accompany the Deputy Secretary to the ECMT meeting 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.

FRA Administrator Molitoris will be a keynote speaker at the Land Transportation Security Policy makers Meeting at the State Department on April 21.

FTA Administrator Linton will participate at the Land Transportation Policy Meeting at the State Department in Washington.

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.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the Spring 97 COHMED Conference in Seattle, WA.

April 22-23

The FAA Acting Administrator, Barry Valentine, will speak at the FAA International Directors General meeting in LA, CA.

April 24-25

Department-wide retreat.

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

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

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.

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 1-2

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 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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 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.

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 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 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 24-25

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

Media Inquiries

(New listings above asterisk)

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.

NBC Radio is preparing a piece for this week on ground deicing operations and future technology for ground deicing.

Dateline NBC, April 10, will interview FAA official from the Office of Regulation and Certification regarding ValuJet. Segment to air May 11.

The Lehrer News Hour interviewed FAA director of Air Traffic Service April 4 regarding the impact of National Weather Service cuts on FAAs weather services. Air date to be announced.

The Washington Post is preparing an article on airline policies regarding personnel in aircraft cockpits. Reporters asked about requirements governing deaf employees flying in aircraft jump seats. Publication date not known.

Washington Times, March 27, preparing story on FAA weather observer program, spoke with director of FAA Air Traffic Service. Story date unknown.

ABC News, Inside DOT, Travel Trade, Waterways Journal, and World Airport Week requested copies of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics newly released Transportation in the United States: A Review. This short report summarizes information in various BTS documents, and covers passenger travel, freight movement, transportation and the economy, and the unintended consequences of transportation (i.e., injuries and deaths in highway crashes, energy use, and environmental impacts).

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 New York -- Ottaway News Service, Washington, DC

NASIP and/or NATI programs of ratings for Part 121/135 airlines for the past five 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, Wisconsin 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

Point of Contact: For the weekend of April 19-20, 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 12:35:40.00

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 AMTRAK's 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: ISTEAA 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: Cynthia Coogan (CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 12:17:04.00

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 Lindberg 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 CFLHDs 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 Teresa, 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.

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])

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-JUN-1997 11:26:31.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of March 3, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE February 27, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of March 3, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Secretary Slater Addresses UPS Stage 3 Gala: On February 25, Secretary Slater addressed the UPS Stage 3 Gala Celebration and presented a letter from the Vice President to James Kelly, Chairman of United Parcel Service stressing the themes of Corporate Citizenship and the environment. UPS became the first major North American airline to comply fully with the Stage 3 quiet aircraft noise rules, 3 years before the federally mandated deadline.

FTA Awards \$200,000 to MD for Planning Initiative: On February 26, FTA Administrator Gordon Linton, joined MD Governor Parris Glendening, to announce \$200,000 in FTA funds to the State to initiate a state-wide community involvement planning project including a visual preference survey program and a Maryland Growing Smarter conference. Maryland's Smart Growth Initiative is expected to serve as national model for addressing issues of land use and transportation on a state-wide basis.

NTSB Meeting on Cessna 177 (Jessica Dubroff Accident): On March 4, the NTSB will meet to consider the final report on the accident in Cheyenne, WY, on April 12, 1996, that resulted in fatal injuries to Jessica Dubroff, her father, and her flight instructor. The accident occurred after takeoff during a coast-to-coast record attempt by the youthful pilot.

Secretary meeting with ATA: On March 6, Secretary Slater will meet with CEO Board members of the Air Transport Association. In addition, he will meet with several airline CEOs of major U.S. carriers. CEOs from United, TWA, Delta, and Continental are scheduled to talk with the Secretary.

Advanced Security Equipment Deployments: Raytheon Service Company has begun the final on-site testing of the CTX-5000 Explosives Detection Systems installed at Chicago O'Hare and John F. Kennedy International

Airports. The Chicago equipment successfully met all requirements on February 21 and the New York equipment on February 25. However, the schedule for full operational capability for both systems has been delayed until mid-March to provide a longer period of on-the-job training for security screening personnel.

Grand Canyon Overflights: On February 21, the Departments of Transportation and Interior issued a joint release announcing a delay in a small feature of the regulations on restoration of quiet in the Grand Canyon. The delay was made in order to gain more information and tighten restrictions. The caps and curfews will still be effective on May 1, 1997. The Grand Canyon rule implementation team is currently negotiating the route structure plans with the local native American tribes in and adjacent to the canyon.

\$2 Million to Students in Transportation Fellowships: On February 19, FHWA awarded 102 students and faculty a total of \$2 million in transportation fellowships through the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship program to support post-graduate study and research in transportation.

Garvey Named Acting FHWA Administrator: On February 19, Jane F. Garvey was named acting Administrator of the FHWA. Ms. Garvey had been FHWA Deputy Administrator since 1993.

Coast Guard Authorizes Construction of Buoy Tenders: On February 20, the Coast Guard announced that Marinette Corp. of Marinette, WI, was awarded a contract to construct 6 additional 175-foot Keeper class coastal buoy tenders. The 6 ships to be constructed will cost approximately \$73 million. Construction is scheduled to begin this year with projected delivery dates from 1999-2000.

FAA Financing Independent Assessment: On February 28, the Coopers and Lybrand Financial Assessment of the FAA is expected to be released. The Department expects that this report will generate press and congressional interest. This study was called for by the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996. The Department is finalizing lists of members to be appointed by the Secretary to the National Civil Aviation Review Commission, which Congress established to report on FAA financing.

Volpe National Transportation Systems Center Congressional Showcase: On March 10, RSPAs Volpe National Transportation Systems Center will showcase state-of-the-art transportation technologies on Capitol Hill. In addition to the anticipated attendance of many congressional staffers, Secretary Slater has issued an invitation to all Members of Congress to attend the event.

Marylands Governor Glendening Helped by Air Bag: On February 19, Governor Glendening was involved in a crash when his vehicle, driven by a MD State Trooper, crashed with a car driven by a 22-year old volunteer firefighter. Both the Governor and the trooper were belted and their air bags deployed. The Governor stated he is confident the air bag and safety belt prevented both the trooper and him from serious injury. The MD Legislature is currently in the final phases of primary safety belt legislation with an outcome expected by the end of the month. Governor

Glendening is the third governor in recent months to be saved by an air bag and safety belt.

Brothers to the Rescue (BTTR) Shootdown Memorial: On February 24, several Cuban-American organizations conducted an aerial ceremony without incident recognizing the February 24, 1996, shootdown of 2 Brothers to the Rescue aircraft by Cuban fighters in international waters. Coast Guard and FAA monitored the demonstration. Department of Defense forces provided additional monitoring and contingency support.

DOT and DOD Assure GPS Access: On February 27, the Departments of Transportation and Defense announced an agreement assuring civil users of the satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS) the availability of a second frequency. A second frequency is essential for critical civilian uses of GPS. The White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, chaired by Vice President Al Gore, called for the establishment of a second civil frequency as part of a broader program to maintain U.S. leadership in aviation and satellite technology.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness: On February 24, the NPRM on Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness was published in the Federal Register. The NPRM requires minimum Federal safety standards for the preparation, adoption, and implementation of emergency preparedness plans by railroads connected with the operation of passenger trains, including freight railroads hosting the operations of rail passenger service. The NPRM proposed extremely significant potentially life-saving measures for passengers on intercity and commuter trains.

Cutter GALLATIN Rescues 9 From Sinking Ship: On February 21, the Cutter GALLATIN responded to a distress call from the 220 ft. Honduran Freighter GALAPAGOS, which reported it was sinking south of Jamaica. The cutter was able to safely rescue all 9 crewmembers from the ship before it sank.

Aviation Issues:

United Kingdom: On February 18-20, U.S. and U.K. delegations held civil aviation negotiations in Washington. The two sides made some further progress on "open-skies" issues in an effort to replace the restrictive Bermuda-2 agreement. Further views will be exchanged through diplomatic channels, including when it would be best to schedule a further round of negotiations.

Japan: Another high-level exploratory meeting is scheduled for March 4-6 in Washington. The meeting will continue discussions that began last month in Tokyo aimed at exploring whether a basis exists for resuming passenger negotiations.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

Welfare Reform Task Force: FTA Region I management has been working with the Boston Area Federal Welfare Reform Task Force on issues related to the Presidents Access to Jobs and Training initiative included in the FY 1998 budget submission. Regional management will be meeting with CT state

legislators next month on the same subject.

Implementation of NAFTA's Transportation Provisions: The Department continued discussions with the NEC and other interested agencies to develop a strategy for implementing the transportation provisions of NAFTA, including access to the U.S. border states for Mexican trucks, investment by Mexican nationals in U.S.-based motor carriers, access to the United States for Mexican regular route cross-border buses, and several "doing-business" issues--Mexico's treatment of small package delivery companies, investments by U.S. companies in Mexican motor carriers, and increased access to Mexico for 53-ft. trailers.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

ISTEA Reauthorization Hearings: On February 26, Secretary Slater testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation on the Administrations ISTEA proposal. The subcommittee complained that the Administrations proposal, which has not yet been finalized, would shortchange highways by billions of dollars and fails to address how highway dollars should be allocated. Secretary Slater said that the Department would try to submit a bill within 7 to 10 days that would clarify issues, such as funding formulas.

Secretary Slater to Testify on DOT Appropriations: On March 4, Secretary Slater, will testify on DOTs FY 1998 Appropriations before the House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee. He is scheduled to testify before the Senate Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee March 6.

Aviation Excise Tax Reinstatement: On February 26, the House passed by a vote of 347-73 legislation to reinstate the aviation ticket tax through the end of FY 97. Senate floor action is pending.

Deputy Secretary Testifies: On February 27, Deputy Secretary Mortimer Downey is scheduled to testify before the Technology Subcommittee of the House Science Committee on ISTEA surface transportation research and development.

FY98 Transportation Appropriations: The Transportation Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee has scheduled a series of hearings on the Departments FY98 funding levels. The Secretary is scheduled to testify on March 4. Other scheduled hearings include: the IG on March 11, Coast Guard on March 12, FHWA and NHTSA on March 13, FAA on March 18, FTA on March 19 and FRA on March 20. On March 6, the Transportation Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee has tentatively scheduled a hearing on the Departments FY98 Budget. Secretary Slater is scheduled to testify.

Hearing on Gore Commission: On March 5, the Senate Aviation Subcommittee will hold a hearing to consider the implementation of the Gore Commission recommendations. Nancy McFadden, General Counsel, and Barry Valentine, Acting FAA Administrator, will be the Departments witnesses.

Drug Interdiction Hearing: On March 10, the House Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice will hold a hearing

on Operation Frontier Shield, the Coast Guards major drug interdiction operation around Puerto Rico. The Commandant, Admiral Kramek, is expected to testify along with other Coast Guard Personnel.

Secretary

February 27

Secretary Slater will attend the Friends of the Law Library of Congress Dinner honoring William T. Coleman in Washington, D.C.

March 3

Secretary Slater will address the National Association of Counties Legislation Conference in Washington, D.C.

March 4

Secretary Slater will testify on DOT FY 1998 Appropriations before the House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee.

March 5

Secretary Slater will give the keynote at the 15th annual Travel and Tourism Industry Unity Dinner in Washington, D.C.

March 6

Secretary Slater is scheduled to testify before the Senate Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee.

Deputy Secretary

February 27

The Deputy Secretary will testify before the House Subcommittee on Technology regarding Surface Transportation Research and Development.

March 6

The Deputy Secretary will testify before the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure concerning innovations in transportation.

April 16-17

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

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

Feb 26 - Mar 3

Admiral Kramek will visit Coast Guard units in the State of Washington.

March 2-5

BTS Director Lakshmanan and senior staff will participate in a Conference on Information Needs to Support State and Local Transportation Decision Making into the 21st Century in Irvine, CA.

March 4

Admiral Kramek will address the CG Marine Safety Officers Conference in Washington.

FTA Administrator Linton is scheduled to be interviewed on Philadelphia

Radio Station WHAT on the Presidents FY 1998 budget.

March 5

Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee (TIC) working lunch.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will be a panelist at the Mid-Year Meeting of State and Provincial Police in Annapolis, MD.

Nancy McFadden, General Counsel, and Barry Valentine, Acting FAA Administrator, will testify before the Senate Aviation Subcommittee on Gore Commission implementation issues.

March 5-6

Admiral Kramek will host the Coast Guard Senior Advisory Group.

March 6

FRA Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will chair a safety partnership meeting that will include senior representatives from Burlington Northern Santa Fe and rail labor organizations.

March 8

Acting FAA Administrator Valentine will speak at the National Warbirds Operators Conference in Dallas, TX.

March 10

Admiral Kramek will testify at hearings on Operation FRONTIER SHIELD.

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the American Public Transit Associations Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.

March 11-12

FAA Acting Deputy Administrator will participate in the FAA Air Traffic Management Conference in Los Angeles, CA.

March 12

Admiral Kramek will testify at the Coast Guard appropriations hearing.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will attend the National Defense Transportation Association Military Sealift Committee meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

March 13

Admiral Kramek will speak to flag and general officers participating in the CAPSTONE program.

Vice Admiral Herr will visit the CG Petty Officers Academy in Petaluma, CA.

March 14

Admiral Kramek will attend meetings with the Webb Institute in NYC.

March 17

FTA Administrator Linton will be honored by the Southeastern PA Chapter of the March of Dimes in Philadelphia.

March 18-20

Admiral Kramek will host the Coast Guard Flag Officers/SES Conference at Andrews Air Force Base.

March 19

MARAD Administrator Herberger will testify on MARADs FY 1998 Budget Authorization before the House National Security Committee Special Oversight Panel on the Merchant Marine.

March 21

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Philip Recht will speak at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the Automotive Occupant Restraints Council in Tucson, AZ.

March 24

Admiral Kramek will attend the USO Annual Awards dinner in Washington.

March 26

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

April 4

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

April 14-15

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

PRESS/MEDIA INQUIRIES

(New listings above asterisk)

ABC News inquired about interviewing senior Coast Guard officials on issues relating to DME. The request was declined.

WWO Radio (CBS) in New Orleans called for more information on the Prevention Through People news release and the public meeting in New Orleans February 25, 1997.

Roll Call-Newspaper of Capital Hill requested information regarding the investigation of the Boston Central Artery Third Harbor Tunnel Project.

Kansas City Star requested information on a possible investigation in Kansas City.

Fisher Broadcasting requested reports on OIGs review of USCG Rescue Motor Life Boat Program.

Nashville Scene requested information concerning a possible investigation on Aviation Safety.

R-News requested information on a possible investigation on Genessee Regional Transit Authority.

Hedrick Smith Productions requested background information on ValuJet Airlines.

A number of profile interview requests have been received for Secretary Slater, including The Washington Post, Memphis Commercial Appeal, NPR, C-Span, KARK (NBC, Little Rock), Congressional Quarterly and Traffic World. These are under consideration.

CBS News, 48 Hours, NBC Dateline are a few of the numerous media who requested information and ran segments on the recent 44-ft. capsizing and resulting loss of Coast Guard personnel in Washington state.

ABC News will run a segment on in-flight and ground deicing in their Solutions segment February 26.

USA Today, February 20, talked to FHWA for an article on the 21st Century Bridge, a play on President Clintons slogan of building a bridge to the 21st century. FHWA provided background on how advanced composite materials will affect the appearance and performance of future bridges and how FHWA has provided support for seven deployment projects in four states.

ABC Nightline is expected to air a segment on air bags next week. The segment is expected to mention four former NHTSA administrators who do not support allowing deactivation.

Time is planning an article on the conversion of Homestead Air Force Base. Publication date unknown.

The Washington Post called to ascertain the identities of five highway and three railroad projects OMB indicated would be cut in the 1998 budget. OMB said the full list will be made available at a later date.

Navy Times. Requested information on the 44-ft. capsizing for article to run in next issue.

U.S. News and World Report called for photos to accompany an upcoming article on the Coast Guard Marine Safety Program. Coast Guard is coordinating the photo shoot with Activities Baltimore and members of the towing industry. The article is expected for publication some time in the next several weeks.

Time Magazine requested information on the Coast Guard's Separation for Child Care program. The magazine's story focus is on a highly publicized case of an Army member who wishes to separate due to newborn issue. Time Magazine's intention is to use the Coast Guard's policy as an example of what's available in another service. The article, if published, should run in the next two weeks.

U.S. News and World Report, called February 20, about the origins of the Scenic Byways program.

Congressional Quarterly called February 19 about projected revenue to the

Highway Trust Fund for the next five fiscal years.

The Boston Globe inquired February 21 regarding the status of Title XI projects at the Quincy, Massachusetts, Shipyard. Publication date 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.

CBS News traveled to the Coast Guard Seventh District, in Florida, for an upcoming segment on Operation Frontier Shield, the Caribbean drug interdiction effort. Air date not known.

Scientific American, March 3, requested an interview with Deputy Secretary Downey regarding how U.S. cities should address their commuting problems. Publication date unknown.

Jack Anderson's column is looking into security spending and whether the amount of funds devoted to the area is inappropriate. Publication date unknown.

The Houston Chronicle is expected to run a story on the nation's pipeline system this month.

Jack Anderson's column requested information on service interruptions, technical upgrade and GAO report. A background interview was conducted, column is expected.

FOIA REQUESTS

ValuJet Airlines: A request was received from The Washington Document Service for any and all information provided to RSPA by ValuJet Airlines relating to passenger deaths that resulted from ValuJet's May 1996 crash in the Florida Everglades.

Violation history of Aero Industrial Services, Inc., from January 1, 1990 to the present -- The Plain Dealer

Record of contacts between FAA and Webb Hubbell with respect to the Los Angeles Airport Commission -- The Washington Post

Enforcement Investigative Reports involving Priester Aviation, Inc. -- WBBM-TV, Chicago, IL

Tape of conversation involving accident at Denali National Park on February 1, 1997 -- The Bush Blade, Anchor Point, Alaska

Point of Contact: For the weekend of March 1-2, Jackie Lowey will be the contact. She can be reached at (703) 671-2529 (home) or 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 11:17:45.00

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 I, 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 Administrations 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 District 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 Barbados.

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.

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will testify before the House Subcommittee on Aviation on hazardous materials and the ValuJet accident.

May 16

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

May 18-19

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.

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.

May 20-24

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

May 21

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.

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 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.

May 23

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

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

May 26-31

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine 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.

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 FAAs 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 FAAs 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

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.