



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

March 1, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THOMAS F. McLAERTY

FROM: FEDERICO PERA 
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: CRIME INITIATIVE

SUMMARY

I have reviewed the material on the Administration's crime initiative. I have also conducted an internal review of ongoing and potential crime initiatives within the Department.

In short, there are a number of specific "transportation-related" crime initiatives (which I have outlined below). I believe, however, that most of the DOT-specific crime initiatives will have a relatively small impact in terms of public interest and that I can best champion the crime initiative by doing outreach that focuses on my experience as a big city mayor, connects with the hispanic community, and reinforces the major messages/themes of the crime debate (i.e. "three strikes you're out").

RESPONSE TO WHITE HOUSE MEMO

We are happy to explore with the Department of Justice the recommended initiative to help high-crime public transportation systems crackdown on crime. As described below, the FTA already has some programs in place. The one caveat I would offer is that we must target carefully any events/activities to places where transit crime is perceived to be a big problem. We do not want to stir fear and anti-transit sentiment by creating an issue where there isn't one.

Federal Transit Administration

U.S. Coast Guard

Obviously, if the White House wants to focus on drug interdiction the Coast Guard can play a role. The potential liability is that the FY95 budget reduced the Coast Guard's interdiction funding.

The FHWA's Intelligent Vehicle Highway System (IVHS) program is bringing advanced communications, computerization, and control technologies to vehicles and the roadside. Examples of potential IVHS user services related to crime prevention include:

- o automated "May-Day" communications that enable travellers to communicate directly with emergency services.
- o route guidance - driving directions would be available on in-vehicle systems, thus helping to reduce the number of lost and confused motorists (who are more vulnerable to crime).
- o automated vehicle identification can provide for tracking of individual vehicles from a central location and could enhance police response to stolen vehicles.
- o public travel security - advanced sensors in transit stations, parking lots, and bus stops could help deter crime.

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration

NHTSA's main focus is on highway safety and accident reduction. "Anti-crime" initiatives are focused on combatting drunk and drugged driving. Because of this focus, NHTSA has developed a close working relationship with several national law enforcement organizations including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Operation C.A.R.E., and the National Sheriffs' Association.

Special traffic enforcement operations always include a criminal interdiction emphasis. For Example, Operation Western 9, conducted in October 1993, involved nine state police and highway patrol agencies. During a 24 hour period 5,000 tickets were issued (including ones for drunk and drugged driving). In addition, 81 criminal arrests were made. This was the 6th special operation conducted with the IACP.

Yes [Another key initiative managed out of NHTSA is the Motor Vehicle Titling, Registration, and Salvage Advisory Committee. This Committee was created by Congress when it passed the Anti-Car Theft Act. The Committee is prepared to issue its final report and recommendations to the President. This could present a good opportunity for new actions and initiatives.

Also: ① Tourism + crime w/ commerce
② Liaison to Mayors
③ Violence campaign based on
Drunk-drive model



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TRANSPORTATION RELATED INITIATIVES

Federal Transit Administration

The FTA views transit crime in the context of the urban society within which transit operates. Hence the FTA technical assistance program on transit security is designed to support the efforts of local transit systems and law enforcement authorities. The FTA conducts a number of activities designed to enhance security in the transit system. These include: developing security courses and training transit security professionals; writing and distributing informational material on the best local security methods; sponsoring a 1-800 computer Safety and Security Bulletin Board that provides users with information on security training, publications, legislation, and events; issuing formula grants to fund security projects.

U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard enforces all applicable federal laws over and on United States waters. Coast Guard law enforcement activities fall into the broad categories of drug interdiction, fisheries enforcement, and alien migration interdiction. From 1988 -1992 the Coast Guard has confiscated over 1,200 tons of marijuana and, over 110 thousand pounds of cocaine. It has conducted over 600 drug seizure cases.

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Federal Highway Administration

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- o automated "Man-Nav" communications that enable travellers to communicate directly with emergency services.
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