



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 16, 2010

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to report on the activities of the National 911 Program. This program provides national leadership and coordination of stakeholder efforts to develop comprehensive and technologically enhanced 911 (E-911) services. It also develops, collects and disseminates best practices and procedures used in the implementation of E-911 services.

During Fiscal Year 2010, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) completed the following activities:

E-911 Grant Program. Pursuant to its agreement with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration regarding joint administration of the E-911 Grant Program, NHTSA has continued to provide administrative oversight for the program. During the past 12 months, the State of Arizona informed NHTSA that it enacted legislation transferring 911 surcharge funds to the State's General Fund. Since diversion of 911 surcharge funds is in violation of the requirements specified in the authorizing legislation, the State of Arizona declined its grant award. Twenty-nine State grantees, however, continue to fulfill the E-911 program mission of helping 911 call centers across the country improve the ability to locate people calling from wireless and Internet-connected telephones.

Outreach. The Web site of the National 911 Program was redesigned and in June 2010 was launched with the new domain name of www.911.gov. The site, which is maintained by NHTSA, provides information about 911 issues and the activities of the National 911 Program.

Outreach with 911 stakeholders continues, including meetings with State and local public safety experts, emergency services personnel, leading equipment manufacturers and service providers, Public Safety Answering Point operators and national public safety organizations. Staff participated in numerous national meetings and forums including "911 Goes to Washington," the annual conference of the National Council of State Legislatures, the National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA), forums sponsored by the E-911 Institute, and others.



National 911 Education Month. The Program facilitated the development and coordination of messages for National 911 Education Month and National Telecommunicator Week, both to be observed in April 2011. Participating organizations include NASNA, the National Emergency Number Association, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch and the E-911 Institute.

Federal 911 Coordination. The Program continued to enhance 911 coordination among Federal agencies that support emergency communications, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Staff also participated in multiple activities such as the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center focus groups and FCC's Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council. In addition, staff served on the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services Technical Working Group's 911/Medical Communications Committee. This committee is preparing a response to a recent recommendation from the National Transportation Safety Board related to emergency communications options for large scale crashes occurring on rural and frontier roadways.

The FCC's National Broadband Plan included recommendations specific to the implementation of Next Generation (NG) 911. It stated that, "The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) should prepare a report to identify the costs of deploying a nationwide NG 911 System and recommend that Congress allocate public funding." NHTSA is currently preparing a document containing the proposed contents of such a report as well as a cost estimate for its completion.

NHTSA 911 Agreements. NHTSA continued to fund a cooperative agreement for the following activities:

- The National 911 Resource Center serves as an information clearinghouse, where stakeholders may submit questions regarding 911 technology, operations and administration. The Resource Center may be accessed via www.911.gov.
- Assessment of State progress in implementing basic 911, E-911 (Phase I and II) and NG911. Based on a data set developed by NASNA, the Resource Center will evaluate progress of the States in deploying current and advancing technology. Based on the assessment, the clearinghouse will target its resources to meet the changing needs of its constituents.
- The National 911 Resource Center has also begun developing guidance in assessing a statewide 911 system and its technical, operational and administrative components.

The Honorable Joe Biden
Page 3

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) NG911 Initiative. DOT is near completion of the NG911 Initiative and has successfully tested a high-level system architecture and developed a migration plan for the NG911 system. This research and development project, funded by DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, conducted a forum for first responders in September 2010, with the goal of developing white papers on the data needs of law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services and transportation operations. These white papers will serve as the basis for subsequent technical projects to provide each of these four disciplines with the data they require via the 911 system.

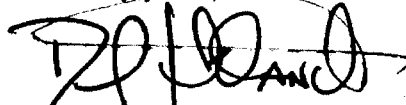
At the conclusion of this forum and with the completion of the four white papers, the results of the U.S. DOT NG911 Initiative, now available at <http://www.its.dot.gov/ng911/index.htm>, will transfer to the National 911 Program where efforts will continue to support the implementation of NG911.

Interaction has continued with national and international standards development organizations (SDOs), specifically related to their 911, E-911 and NG911 activities. A gap analysis of existing standards vs. those required to deploy NG911 has been undertaken and the results will provide a point of coordination for the multiple SDOs currently developing related technical standards.

NHTSA believes that E-911 services are important to the security and safety of the American people and will continue working toward greater coordination and communication among Federal, State and local emergency communications systems.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Mr. Chan D. Lieu, Director, Governmental Affairs, Policy and Strategic Planning, at (202) 366-1836.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Strickland", written over a horizontal line.

David L. Strickland