Memorandum

U.S. Department
Of Transportation

Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration

SP-07-002-FU

Subject: **INFORMATION**: MCSAP High Priority Grant Awards

Date: NOV 22 2006

From: Dan Hartman
Associate Administrator for
Enforcement and Program Delivery

Reply to
Attn.of: MC-ESS

To: Field Administrators
State Programs Managers
Division Administrators

This memorandum provides information regarding Agency priorities for awarding high priority grant funding under the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) for commercial motor vehicle safety projects and activities.

To ensure maximum operational effectiveness and efficiency, resource allocation decisions must be based on the highest quality data possible and sound statistical analysis of that data. The goal of saving lives and reducing injuries by preventing truck and bus crashes will be achieved by directing resources to the highest risk areas. The improvement of safety data to provide for more timely and accurate decisions remains a top priority for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Some States must improve the timeliness and accuracy of data uploads, which are vital to identifying the highest risk carriers, drivers, and roadways. State data quality problems must be identified in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan, and Basic funds should be directed toward those problems.

Effective immediately, as a condition of receiving MCSAP High Priority funding, States identified by FMCSA as having poor data quality (as defined on the FMCSA Analysis & Information (A&I) Web site under the Data Quality tab) must address their State data problems before requests for other high priority initiatives will be considered. This can be accomplished through dedication of Basic or Incentive grant funding, Safety Data Improvement Program grant funding, or high priority grant funding.

Additionally, States identified by FMCSA as having fair data quality (defined as yellow on the State Safety Data Quality Map on the FMCSA A&I Web site under the Data Quality tab) are encouraged to give priority to further improving their data quality. States requesting High Priority funds for data improvement should show their commitment to improving their data problems by utilizing Basic and

Incentive grant funds. Any high priority funds requested to improve data quality should supplement existing use of Basic grant funds.

Important national safety initiatives will continue to be supported with high priority funding. Funds will be allocated for national safety programs such as judicial outreach, public education and information, enhancements to State training, hazardous materials safety and special research efforts, and innovative State-specific efforts that have the potential for nationwide implementation. These activities include commercial passenger compliance activities, sharing the road with trucks/buses promotional efforts, high visibility traffic enforcement, drug interdiction support, judicial outreach efforts, improving the quality of inspections, local enforcement, and crash data collection. Only public information and education activities may be funded at 100 percent; all other high priority activities must be funded at 80/20.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Michael Lamm at (202) 366-6830, or via e-mail at mike.lamm@dot.gov.