



Meeting Minutes July 11, 2023

FMCSA's Truck Leasing Task Force (TLTF) met virtually on July 11, 2023, via Zoom. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public in its entirety. Larry Minor, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on July 11, 2023.

The following individuals attended the public meeting:

TLTF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tamara Brock, Lewis & Lewis Logistics LLC
Paul Cullen, The Cullen Law Firm PLLC
Troy Hawkins, TTOH Consulting & Logistics LLC
Jim Jefferson, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA)
Joshua Krause, OTRLeasing LLC
Kaitlyn Long, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Steve Rush, Carbon Express, Inc
Lesley Tse, Getman, Sweeney & Dunn PLLC
Steve Viscelli, University of Pennsylvania

FMCSA AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Robin Hutcherson, Administrator, FMCSA
Larry Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Shannon Watson, Senior Policy Advisor and Deputy DFO
Ian Burg, Volpe Center, US DOT
Robert Camara, Public Affairs Specialist
Derrick Carrington, Transportation Specialist
Frank Chamberlin, Student Intern
Stephanie Chase, Volpe Center
Michael Christopher, Kansas Division Administrator
Caitlin Cullitan, Acting Deputy Director for Governmental Affairs
Ryan Kelly, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Jack Kostelnik, Transportation Specialist
Kimberly Lambert, Chief, Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation Division
Brenna Marron, Director of Governmental Affairs
Rachel McBrien, Volpe Center
Nicole McDavid, Senior Policy Advisor
Gregory Miller, Ethics Attorney
Emma Oppenheim, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Julianne Schwarzer, Volpe Center
Eran Segev, Volpe Center
Brian Smith, Office of Safety
Rosie Stahl, Management and Program Analyst
Kala Wright, Director of External Affairs



OTHER ATTENDEES

Destiny Adams, Melton Truck Lines
David Brannan, The Evans Network of Companies
Gary Buchs, Overdrive Randall Riley
Kristen Burch, Illinois Commerce Commission Police
Charity Coleman, Changeis
Jeffery Dema, FoxPoint/OTR Leasing
Josefina Diaz, Josies Insurance Services
Mia Dokic, Key Carrier Group
Jim Fetzer, Land Line Now
Raymond Formanek, Artemis ARC
John Gallagher, FreightWaves
Jay Grimes, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA)
Randy Guillot, Triple G Express Inc
Chris Gulker, TrueNorth Companies
J. Hal, Fox
Richard Hoffman, Independent Driver
Mike Hosted, ATSB
Devin Ingram, H&H Risk Partners LLC
Jeff Jackson, Scopelitis, Garvin, Light, Hanson & Feary
Gareth Jones, Roses First Choice LLC
Adedoyin Kayode, Smiles Logic
Michelle Kitchin, REAL Women in Trucking (RWIT)
Sasha Kilger, Student
Irene Lewis, Self
Aidan Madison, Safety Consulting
Nathan Mehrens, American Trucking Associations (ATA)
Jeremy Middlebrooks, Owner-Operator
Eric Miller, Transport Topics
Daniel Moskowitz, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Travis Ostergard, Solo Trucking
Richard Pianka, ATA
Tyler Pieper, Changeis
Cassandra Raposo, Changeis
Mark Schremmer, Land Line Magazine
John Scott, Atlanta Container & Trailer LLC
Henry Seaton, Law Office of Seaton & Husk LP
Prasad Sharma, Scopelitis, Garvin, Light, Hanson & Feary
Reed Shaw, Governing for Impact
Jaleel Shaw, Self
Brigid Sheilds, UniGroup
Chuck Simmons, Penske Truck Leasing
Jan Skouby, PrePress Safety Alliance
Holly Standford, U-Haul
Lisa Stephenson, CRST The Transportation Solution, Inc



Brendan Steppke, Arrow Truck Sales
 Dee Studebaker, OOIDA
 Norita Taylor, OOIDA
 Mechelle Thomas, MT Worldwide Logistics LLC
 Masha Tomasevic, Floyd Inc
 Paul Torlina, OOIDA
 Mitchell Tulloch, Gibraltar Heights Logistics LLC
 Avery Vise, FTR Transportation Intelligence
 Tom Weakley, OOIDA Foundation Inc.
 Steven Wilbanks, Skye Lynn Truckin LLC
 Josiah Williams, Independent Driver
 Renee Williams, 1WAY Transport LLC-S
 Natasha Wilson, Greenberg Traurig LLP
 Desiree Wood, Founder and President, RWIT

REMARKS AND COMMITTEE ACTION

Larry Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy, FMCSA and DFO, welcomed the TLTF committee members with Shannon Watson, Deputy DFO, and Kala Wright, Director of External Affairs. Committee members introduced themselves.

Greetings from U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg

Secretary Buttigieg welcomed the members, recognizing the importance of the trucking industry and making sure everyone who enters the career is treated fairly. The Secretary acknowledged the importance of TLTF in informing policy decisions though the expertise and life experience that each member brings to the committee. He stated that policymakers will turn to TLTF to examine and advise on the terms and conditions of truck leasing arrangements and their impact on drivers and trucking businesses.

A Visit with FMCSA Administrator Robin Hutcheson

Administrator Hutcheson noted that truck leasing is a priority because the conditions that surround the work and environment for truck drivers are a root cause for safety. The Administrator referenced existing data that suggests the longer a driver’s experience the safer the driving. She thanked TLTF members for offering expert insights into unfair lease agreements per the requirements of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

PRESENTATIONS

	Presenter	Presentation
1	Gregory Miller, Attorney Advisor, General Law Division, Office of Chief Counsel, FMCSA	Federal Ethics Rules for TLTF Members

Mr. Miller conducted annual ethics training for TLTF members, who serve as Representative and Special Government employee members under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.



Task Statement 23-1: Information and Data Needs for Examining the Terms, Conditions, and Equitability of Common Truck Leasing Arrangements

TLTF deliberated on Task 23-1, requesting a report to the Agency regarding TLTF’s examination of the terms, conditions, and equitability of common truck leasing arrangements, particularly as they impact owner-operators and trucking businesses subject to such agreements. This task focuses primarily on information and data TLTF believes it needs to support its work as it plans its meeting schedule.

Discussion Points

- Language used in the discussion lease programs should differentiate between lease purchase agreements and owner-operator lease agreements.
- Important to understand the bad actors in the truck leasing programs and how they undermine trucking industry confidence in the reputable truck leasing programs for drivers.
- Important to understand the firsthand experiences of drivers who have been part of predatory leasing programs.
- Recognize the control carriers in a lease purchase agreement have over drivers.
- Industry experience is important when entering truck leasing programs for the driver and for trucking businesses. It is important to understand why trucking companies enter into these agreements.
- Education for new entrants into the industry as well as experienced drivers can help drivers better understand the risks and signs of potential predatory leasing scenarios.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Michelle Kitchin, Driver and RWIT Board member, reiterated the human impact of predatory leasing in the trucking industry. She described being at truck stops and seeing the effects of such agreements on drivers. Some drivers are not making the money they thought they were promised. Ms. Kitchin noted that this can impact sleep and nutrition.
- Desiree Wood, Founder and President, RWIT, and a truck driver, mentioned the need for more transparency in the lease purchase process and that students can be led into these agreements when they have little industry experience. She recommends that FMCSA look further into its National Consumer Complaint Database, as drivers report into this database.
- Renee Williams, 1WAY Transport, feels that the biggest take-away from the discussion is to know and understand your lease. She hopes the committee will address this important issue.
- Gareth Jones, Owner-Operator, Washington, DC, shared that he and his wife entered a predatory lease and understand the need for more help to get out from such leases. Mr. Jones thanked the committee for trying to bring back respect for the industry and for drivers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Minor and Ms. Watson thanked TLTF for their contributions and provided information for future meetings.

_____/Signed/_____
Steve Rush, Chair

_____/Signed/_____
Larry Minor, DFO