



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act Update on FMCSA Research Activities

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Office of Research and Information Technology



Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, 2015

- Signed into law December 4, 2015 (PL 114-94).
- Sets funding authorization levels for FMCSA through 2020.
- Mandated several rulemakings, reports to Congress, studies, and working groups.

For more information see:

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/fixing-americas-surface-transportation-act-fast-act>



FMCSA FAST Act Website

FAST Act: Reports | Feder x

Secure | <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/fastact/reports>

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FAST Act Research Projects

- Section 5221: Correlation Study by the National Academies of Science
- Section 5306: Post Accident Report Review Recommendations
- Section 5404: Commercial Driver Pilot Program for Military Trained Drivers
- Section 5506: Report on Commercial Driver's License Skills Test Delays
- Section 5510: Safety Study Regarding Rear Luggage Compartments on Double-Decker Motorcoaches
- Section 5515: Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Commuting Study
- Section 5517: Report on Motor Carrier Financial Responsibility

FAST Act Studies Tasked to Third Parties

- Section 5501: Delay in Goods Movement (Office of Inspector General)
- Section 5511: GAO Review of School Bus Safety (Government Accountability Office)

FAST Act Research Projects

Section 5221: Correlation Study

Required the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct a study of the Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) program, specifically the Safety Measurement System (SMS). FMCSA was also required to develop a corrective action plan subject to DOT Office of Inspector General (OIG) review.

Status:

- NAS completed its review and issued six recommendations for FMCSA's consideration.
- FMCSA will take action on the NAS recommendations.
- The corrective action plan is being drafted and will be submitted to the DOT OIG pursuant to Section 5221.

FAST Act Research Projects

[Section 5306: Post-Accident Report Review](#)

Required a working group to review the data elements of post-accident reports for tow-away accidents involving commercial motor vehicles that are reported to the Federal government.

The working group shall report to the Secretary its findings and recommendations, including best-practices.

The Secretary shall review the findings, identify best-practices, and make recommendations to the States the adoption of new data elements to be collected following reportable commercial motor vehicle accidents.

Status:

- The Post Accident Report Advisory Committee finalized its recommendations, which are available on the FMCSA website.

FAST Act Research Projects

Section 5404: Commercial Driver Pilot Program

Required the establishment of a pilot program to study the feasibility, benefits, and safety impacts of allowing 18-20 year old drivers with military commercial vehicle training to operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce.

Requires the establishment of an advisory working group that will provide recommendations to the Secretary.

Not later than 1 year after the conclusion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit the findings in a report to Congress.

Status:

- On August 22, 2016, FMCSA published a notice of a proposed pilot program seeking public comment. (81 FR 56745)
- The Agency received 66 comments.
- FMCSA has reviewed the public comments and is finalizing the plans for the pilot program.
- Approved information collection request is required before FMCSA can initiate the pilot.

FAST Act Research Projects

Section 5506: Report on Commercial Driver's License Skills Test Delays

FMCSA shall submit to Congress a report that describes, for each state, the status of skills testing for commercial driver's license applicants, including:

- Average wait times.
- The number of qualified examiners available to test applicants.
- The number of testing sites available throughout the State.

The report shall also include the steps that FMCSA is taking to address skills test delays in States with average test/re-test times of more than 7 days from the request.

Status:

- Information collection request was published in the Federal Register on October 5, 2016.
- The information collection request 30-day notice was published in the Federal Register on March 21, 2017.
- Data collection was completed on October 31, 2017.
- FMCSA anticipates finalizing the report in early 2018.

FAST Act Research Projects

[Section 5510: Safety Study Regarding Double-Decker Motorcoaches](#)

Required the Secretary, in consultation with State transportation safety and law enforcement officials, to conduct a study regarding the safety operations, fire suppression capability, tire loads, and pavement impacts of operating a double-decker motorcoach with a rear luggage compartment.

Status:

- Study was completed in Fall 2017 and the report is under Agency review.

FAST Act Research Projects

[Section 5515: Study on Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Commuting](#)

Required FMCSA to conduct a study on the safety effects of motor carrier operator commutes exceeding 150 minutes.

Status:

- Information Collection Request 60-day notice was published in the Federal Register on November 27, 2017.
- The agency has received 19 comments to date; comment period closes January 26, 2018.
- Approval for information collection is required before the survey can be conducted.

FAST Act Research Projects

[Section 5517: Report on Motor Carrier Financial Responsibility](#)

FMCSA is required to publish a report on the minimum levels of financial responsibility that includes an analysis of the differences between State and Federal insurance requirements and the extent to which the existing levels adequately cover medical care, compensation, and other identifiable costs, and the frequency with which insurance claims exceed the current minimum levels of financial responsibility.

Status:

- The report is in Agency review.