



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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William T. Pound
Executive Director

December 20, 2013

The Honorable Peter M. Rogoff
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FTA's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for The National Public Transportation Safety Plan

Dear Administrator Rogoff:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), a bi-partisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories, applauds the efforts of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to issue an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for its National Safety and Transit Asset Management standards. Given the recent tragic events involving train derailments and other safety issues NCSL finds this rulemaking is of particular importance.

NCSL supports a continued federal role in helping to set national performance and safety goals but believes any federal regulation should be made in consultation with state, local and tribal governments. Releasing the forthcoming regulations to the public is a good step to ensure all voices are heard before states are required to institute national safety plans.

Specifically, federal transportation safety programs should promote comprehensive safety programs in the states while respecting state sovereignty. Such safety programs must avoid the use of federal sanctions or penalties that would redirect existing funds to enforce federal safety standards. As FTA works to craft these national safety transit plans, NCSL would ask that any new costs to states be recognized and would urge the agency to support additional resources and technical assistance to aid the states in compliance.

Additionally, as you work to build comprehensive safety requirements, NCSL would encourage FTA to deploy advanced technologies known as Intelligent Transportation Systems for passenger transportation. Intelligent Transportation Systems are advanced wireless technologies that maximize the safety, mobility and environmental performance of the surface transportation system. These

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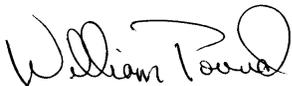
p. 2

services should be integrated, interoperable, intermodal and voluntary while also including privacy protections for all policies and practices governing the use of ITS systems and technologies.

Again, NCSL applauds the agency for engaging the public at an early stage in the rulemaking process. We look forward to working with FTA to protect state sovereignty as the national safety and transit asset management rules are developed and ensure that the final rule does not impose unnecessary or excessive burdens on the states.

Please contact Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org) or Melanie Condon (melanie.condon@ncsl.org) for any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Pound". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

Attached: NCSL's Surface Transportation Federalism Policy Directive