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TRANS 202 Transportation Systems

The federal government has assumed responsibilities for the transportation systems in this country. The major federal agencies are located either within the Department of Transportation (DOT) or with the Department of Homeland Security. Using your textbook and government websites (www.dot.gov or www.dhs.gov) describe the responsibilities of each of the following agencies:

Within the DOT:

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

- BTS was established for data collection, analysis, and reporting and to ensure the most cost effective use of transportation - monitoring resources.
- to lead in developing transportation data and information of high quality, and to advance their effective use in both public and private transportation decision making.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

- provides a safe, secure, and efficient global aerospace system that contributes to national security and the promotion of the aerospace safety.
- is responsive to the dynamic nature of customer needs, economic conditions, and environmental concerns dealing with aerospace technologies.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

- is charged with the broad responsibility of ensuring that America's roads and highways continue to be the safest and most technologically advanced.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

- Trays to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses by enforcing regulations, harnessing safety information, educating drivers, and partnering with groups that fight for safer roads.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

- to promulgate and enforce rail safety regulations, administer railroad assistance programs, conduct research and development, in support of improved safety and policy, provide rehabilitation of the NCTD passenger service, and consolidate government support of rail transportation activities.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

- improves public transportation involved with buses, subway, light rail, commuter rail, monorail, ferry boats, trolleys, inclined railways, and people movers.
- provides financial assistance to develop new transit systems and improve, maintain and operate existing systems.

Maritime Administration (MARAD)

- reduces congestion on the nation's inland waterway, marine and landside infrastructure, assure an intermodal sealt capacity to support vital national security interests, formalize environmental considerations in all operations, and strives for a maritime system that serves America

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

- responsible for reducing deaths, injuries, and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes; investigates crashes and safety defects, reduces threats of possible accident causes, and researches driver behavior.

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA)

- responsible for regulating the variety of safety and regulatory programs such as pipelines and hazardous material transportation and dedicated to enhancing effectiveness, efficiency, and responsiveness to critical transportation-related functions and missions

Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC)

- in charge of transportation on the Great Lakes

Surface Transportation Board (STB)

- disputes and regulates interstate surface transportation through various laws pertaining to the different modes of transportation

In the Department of Homeland Security:

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

- protects the nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce

US Coast Guard

- maritime safety, mobility, and security; national defense, protection of natural resources