



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 21, 2011

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to report on the activities of the National 911 Program. This program provides national leadership and coordination of stakeholder efforts to develop comprehensive and technologically enhanced 911 (E-911) services. It also develops, collects and disseminates best practices and procedures used in the implementation of E-911 services.

During Fiscal Year 2011, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) completed the following activities:

E-911 Grant Program. Pursuant to its agreement with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration regarding joint administration of the E-911 Grant Program, NHTSA has continued to provide administrative oversight for the program. Twenty-nine State grantees continue to fulfill the E-911 program mission of helping 911 call centers across the country improve the ability to locate people calling from wireless and Internet-connected telephones. The right to incur costs on their grant expires on September 30, 2012.

Outreach. The Web site of the National 911 Program with the new domain name of www.911.gov is maintained by NHTSA and provides information about 911 issues and the activities of the National 911 Program.

Outreach with 911 stakeholders continues, including meetings with State and local public safety experts, emergency services personnel, leading equipment manufacturers and service providers, Public Safety Answering Point operators and national public safety organizations. Staff participated in numerous national meetings and forums including "911 Goes to Washington," the annual conference of the National Council of State Legislatures, the National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA), forums sponsored by the E-911 Institute, and others.



National 911 Education Month. The Program facilitated the development and coordination of messages for National 911 Education Month and National Telecommunicator Week, both observed in April 2011. A Web site providing information was established with the domain name of www.know911.org and participating organizations include NASNA, the National Emergency Number Association, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch and the E-911 Institute.

Federal 911 Coordination. The Program continued to enhance 911 coordination among Federal agencies that support emergency communications including the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Staff also participated in multiple activities such as the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center focus groups and FCC's Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council. In addition, staff served on the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) Technical Working Group's 911/Medical Communications Committee. FICEMS delivered a response to a recent recommendation from the National Transportation Safety Board related to emergency communications options for large scale crashes occurring on rural and frontier roadways.

The FCC's National Broadband Plan included recommendations specific to the implementation of Next Generation (NG) 911. It stated that, "The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) should prepare a report to identify the costs of deploying a nationwide NG911 System and recommend that Congress allocate public funding." NHTSA prepared a document containing the proposed contents of such a report as well as a cost estimate for its completion.

NHTSA 911 Agreements. NHTSA continued to fund cooperative agreements for the following activities:

- The National 911 Resource Center serves as an information clearinghouse where stakeholders may submit questions regarding 911 technology, operations and administration. The Resource Center may be accessed via www.911.gov.
- Assessment of State progress in implementing basic 911, E-911 (Phase I and II) and NG911. Based on a data set developed by NASNA, the Resource Center beta tested an online database to evaluate progress of the States in deploying current and advancing technology.
- The National 911 Resource Center has also developed guidance in assessing a statewide 911 system and its operational and administrative components.

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U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) NG911 Initiative. DOT has completed the NG911 Initiative and has successfully tested a high-level system architecture and developed a migration plan for the NG911 system. This research and development project, funded by DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, conducted a forum for first responders in September 2010, to develop white papers on the NG911 data needs of law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services and transportation operations. These white papers were released in August 2011 and will serve as the basis for subsequent technical projects to provide each of these four disciplines with useful data via the 911 system.

The results of the U.S. DOT NG911 Initiative, now available at <http://www.its.dot.gov/ng911/index.htm>, will transfer to the National 911 Program where efforts will continue to support the implementation of NG911.

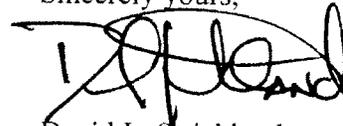
Because NG911 implementation will require an update to many existing State statutes, the National 911 Program is developing model State 911 legislation that will provide suggestions for legislative actions to enable the use of advanced technology in providing 911 services.

Interaction has continued with national and international standards development organizations (SDOs) specifically related to their 911, E-911 and NG911 activities. An analysis of existing standards vs. those required to deploy NG911 has been undertaken and the results will provide a point of coordination for the multiple SDOs currently developing related technical standards.

NHTSA believes that E-911 services are important to the security and safety of the American people and the traveling public. We will continue working toward greater coordination and communication among Federal, State and local emergency communications systems.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Mr. Chan D. Lieu, Director, Governmental Affairs, Policy and Strategic Planning, at (202) 366-1836.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Strickland", with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

David L. Strickland