

Memorandum of Cooperation

This Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Women's Transportation Seminar International (WTS) expresses the mutual intentions of the parties regarding their Joint Initiative for the advancement of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and for the advancement of women in the field of transportation by improving hiring, training, retention, and promotional opportunities for women.

WHEREAS STEM refers to the educational areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics;

WHEREAS STEM initiatives promote education in these related fields at the middle school, high school, and college levels in order to prepare students to pursue STEM-related careers;

WHEREAS a strong foundation in the STEM educational areas is required to succeed in all areas of life and work in the 21st century;

WHEREAS attracting and retaining a highly qualified, diverse, and technically advanced workforce will be necessary for the 21st century, particularly a workforce that has mastered transportation-related subject areas within STEM;

WHEREAS DOT plans to achieve organizational excellence in workforce development;

WHEREAS the mission of WTS is to transform transportation through the advancement of women;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree that:

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this MOC is to support, through a strategic partnership between DOT and WTS, the advancement of STEM and the advancement of women in the field of transportation by improving hiring, training, retention, and promotional opportunities for women.

No fiscal obligations are created through the execution of this MOC, or any section herein. This MOC serves as an initial planning document with no rights inferred, no obligations incurred, and no funds transferred by either of the parties.

Section 2. Authority.

The DOT's authorities to enter into this MOC include Title 49 U.S.C. Section 101(b), which lists as DOT's purposes, *inter alia*, to stimulate advancements in transportation through research and development or otherwise, and encourage cooperation among Federal, State, and local governments, carriers, labor, and other interested parties to achieve transportation objectives, and provide general leadership in identifying and solving transportation problems; and Title 49 U.S.C. Section 112, which authorizes the Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration to carry out education and training in transportation and transportation-related fields. WTS's authority to enter into this MOC is based upon the mission of WTS, which is to transform the transportation industry through the advancement of women.

Section 3. Period of MOC.

The terms and conditions described in this MOC become effective when signed by authorized officials of both DOT and WTS and remain effective for five (5) years, unless amended in accordance with Section 4, or terminated in accordance with Section 5.

Section 4. Amendments.

Any amendments to the Sections in this MOC shall be made in writing and signed by both DOT and WTS.

Section 5. Termination of MOC.

This MOC may be terminated upon 60 calendar days written notice by either party.

Section 6. Outreach Activities.

Utilizing the WTS network of 45 chapters and over 4000 transportation professionals, DOT and WTS will jointly plan, organize, and conduct a series of outreach sessions in 2010 and 2011 that will be co-hosted by DOT and WTS, and the local or regional WTS chapter. Three to five sessions are proposed over 18 months. The outreach initiative supports both the goal set forth by DOT in its draft 2010 strategic plan to achieve organizational excellence in workforce development, and the WTS mission to transform transportation through the advancement of women.

These outreach sessions generally will focus on attracting and retaining a highly qualified, diverse, and technically advanced workforce for the 21st century with specific attention given to the mastery of transportation-related subject areas within STEM. The MOC will complement existing efforts undertaken by the DOT's University Transportation Centers Workforce

Development Initiative, with a focus on linking outreach sessions to those efforts, and where appropriate, to existing and planned events.

The DOT and WTS will jointly identify host regions for outreach sessions and select specific topic areas for discussion at each session. The WTS chapters will inform WTS of their interest in hosting an event and note specific areas of interest, e.g., professional advancement or industry growth areas.

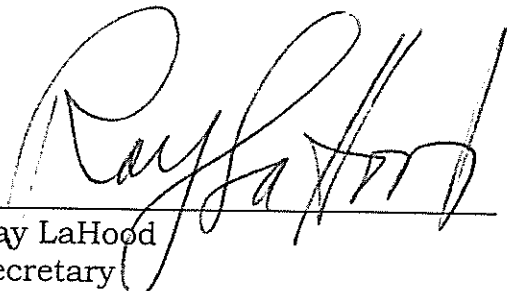
Section 7. Goals.

This joint initiative will support the following goals:

- Improve our collective understanding of the impediments to attracting and retaining women in transportation-oriented technical fields such as engineering and logistics;
- Develop a toolkit of best practices in the areas of mentoring, promoting women entrepreneurs, and attracting students in technical fields into transportation;
- Develop more effective professional development opportunities for women across the lifecycles of their careers—from entry-level to executive responsibilities;
- Develop ideas and partnerships to encourage female students, ages 13–18 years, to consider careers in transportation; and
- Engage the WTS community in a broad-based policy initiative that supports the advancement of women in transportation.

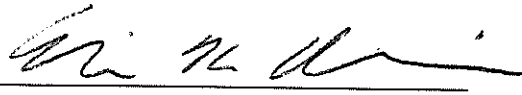
This document expresses the unequivocal intentions of the parties as a basis for going forward, but does not create any legally binding obligations.

Section 8. Signatures.



Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation

May 20, 2010
Date



Elaine K. Dezenski
President
Women's Transportation
Seminar International
May 20, 2010
Date