

Final 2006 Appropriations Conference Report

FMCSA	2006 DOT Request	Final 2006 Conference Report
FMCSA Operations	\$233,000,000	\$213,000,000
State Safety Grants	\$232,000,000	\$282,000,000
Total	\$465,000,000	\$495,000,000

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

The conference agreement includes a liquidation of contract authorization and a limitation on obligations of \$213,000,000 for the operating expenses of and motor carrier safety research by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), instead of \$215,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$211,400,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement provides funding in the following manner:

	<i>Conference level</i>
Operating expenses	\$144,475,000
Research and technology	10,084,000
Information management	42,092,000
Regulatory development	10,414,000
Outreach and education	4,000,000
PRISM operations	935,000
Commercial motor vehicle operators grants	1,000,000

Outreach and education.—The conference agreement provide a total of \$4,000,000 for outreach and education. Of this amount, the conferees direct that no more than \$100,000 shall be for the “safety is good business” program, no less than \$1,000,000 shall be used to increase

safety belt usage among commercial motor vehicle drivers, no less than \$500,000 shall be for the share the road safely program, and no less than \$1,000,000 shall be for household goods outreach. The conferees also provide within the funding for outreach and education \$150,000 to continue the motorcoach transportation service selection program and \$390,000 for the telephone hotline.

The conference agreement also prohibits any funds relating to outreach and education from being transferred to another agency.

The conference agreement retains language proposed by the Senate directing FMCSA to provide at least two updates to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations during fiscal year 2006 on the transition of the share the road safely program from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to FMCSA, as well as the status of the two planned enforcement/media waves. The conferees also direct NHTSA to return to FMCSA the one FTE that had been detailed from FMCSA to help oversee the share the road safely program.

Research and Technology.—The conference agreement includes \$10,084,000 for research and technology and stipulates that the funds shall be available until September 30, 2008.

Within the funds provided for operating expenses, the conference agreement includes funding for the following activities:

Salaries and benefits.....	\$91,746,000
Travel	14,087,000
Transportation	242,000
Communications, rent, and utilities.....	515,000
GSA Rent	10,887,000
Printing.....	530,000
Other services.....	17,551,000
Supplies	1,357,000
Equipment	3,687,000
Working capital fund.....	3,873,000

New entrant program.—The conference agreement provides a total of \$2,000,000 for the new entrant program for oversight and other Federal responsibilities. This funding level is

sufficient to support the existing on-board staffing for fiscal year 2006. An additional \$29,000,000 is provided for state grants under the motor carrier safety assistance program.

Commercial vehicle analysis reporting system (CVARS).—Under the recently enacted reauthorization of motor carrier safety programs, no funding is provided within this limitation for CVARS. However, the conferees note that funding is available within motor carrier safety grants for the FMCSA to make grants to, or enter into contracts with, states, local government, or other persons for CVARS.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

The conference agreement provides a liquidating cash appropriation and a limitation on obligations of \$282,000,000 for motor carrier safety grants, instead of \$286,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$278,620,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement provides funding for motor carrier safety grants as follows:

	<i>Amount</i>
Motor carrier safety assistance program	\$188,000,000
Border enforcement grants	32,000,000
Performance and registration information system management grant program.....	5,000,000
Commercial driver's license (CDL) program improvement grants.....	25,000,000
Commercial vehicle information systems and networks deployment	25,000,000
CDL information system modernization.....	5,000,000
Safety data improvement grants	2,000,000

The conference agreement directs that \$29,000,000 of the funds provided for the motor carrier safety assistance program shall be distributed as grants to States and local governments for new entrant motor carrier audits.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Section 120 retains the provision as proposed by the House and the Senate that subjects funds appropriated in this Act to the terms and conditions of section 350 of Public Law 107-87, including that the Secretary submit a report on Mexico-domiciled motor carriers.

The conference agreement deletes a provision proposed by the Senate that prohibited using funds in this Act to implement or enforce any provision of the Final Rule issued on April 16, 2003, as it applies to operators of utility service vehicles and motion picture and television production drivers working at a site within a 100 air mile radius of the reporting location.