



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

General Counsel

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

December 20, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte Meeting*
PS Docket Nos. 11-153, 10-255
Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911
Applications; Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the *Ex Parte* Rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission), the United States Department of Transportation (Department or DOT) submits this letter to summarize the discussion at a meeting conducted with FCC staff in this proceeding on Monday, December 19, 2011.

The following FCC personnel attended this meeting: Julie A. Veach (Office of the General Counsel); David L. Furth (Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau); David H. Siehl (Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau); and Patrick Donovan (Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau). Participating on behalf of the Department were: Drew Dawson (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Office of Emergency Medical Services); Laurie Flaherty (NHTSA, Office of Emergency Medical Services); Jin Kim (NHTSA, Office of the Chief Counsel); and the undersigned (Office of the Secretary, General Counsel's Office).

At the meeting, DOT provided FCC staff members with a summary of DOT's efforts to facilitate the adoption and enhancement of Next Generation 911 (NG 911) across the country. Attached to this letter is a copy of a handout that DOT provided to FCC staff at this meeting that provides additional details about the Department's initiatives, and provides links to various websites that offer information on NG 911 activities and educational programs.

As discussed at the meeting, and as noted in the handout, the Department's NG 911 efforts over the past several years have fallen into two main categories. First, the Department's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) funded a research and development project, "Next Generation 911 Initiative," to help design a system that will enable members of the public to make 911 "calls," including real-time communications via voice, text, or video,

from any wired, wireless, or Internet Protocol (IP)-based device, and to enable data sharing between participants in the emergency communications network. Through this initiative, the Department has completed a national architecture and transition plan for NG 911.

Second, NHTSA's Office of Emergency Medical Services, housed within the Department, works to coordinate private and public stakeholders involved in NG 911 activities, and operates a clearinghouse for information and other initiatives relating to NG 911. NHTSA and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the Department of Commerce also awarded E-911 grants to upgrade Public Safety Answering Points' capabilities to enable compliance with Phase II E-911 services or to enable migration to IP-enabled emergency networks. NHTSA in coordination with NTIA continues to administer that grant program for nearly thirty recipients. NHTSA is also involved in public education activities, working with private and public stakeholders to provide resources and educational materials on NG 911 and other emergency response issues. Further details can be found at www.911.gov and www.know911.org.

In addition to these efforts, the Department noted that NHTSA is working on model state legislation for NG 911, and that this may be of interest to the Commission when it is completed, perhaps as early as next year. The Department also referred FCC staff to the various websites discussed in the handout distributed at the meeting for additional information about how to educate the public on 911 issues. Finally, Department personnel noted their general interest in ongoing efforts by public and private stakeholders to determine technical standards that would facilitate NG 911 access.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

/s/ Christopher S. Perry

Christopher S. Perry
Trial Attorney

(202) 366-9282
christopher.perry@dot.gov

Enclosure

cc: Julie A. Veach
David L. Furth
David H. Siehl
Patrick Donovan



U.S. Department of Transportation: 911 Activities



US DOT Next Generation (NG) 911 Initiative

- Funded by Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA)
- Co-managed by RITA & National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- **Goal:** To enable the general public to make a 911 "call" (any real-time communication – voice, text, or video) from any wired, wireless, or Internet Protocol (IP)-based device and enable data sharing with the emergency communication network
- **Major Milestones** (<http://www.its.dot.gov/NG911>):
 - National architecture and high-level design for NG911 System
 - Proof of Concept Demonstration
 - Transition plan for NG9-1-1 implementation
 - "What's Next?" for First Responders -
<http://www.tsag-its.org/projects/nextgen911.php>



911 Activities

NHTSA Office of Emergency Medical Services

- **Goals:**
 - Facilitate coordination among all public and private stakeholders
 - Serve as an information clearinghouse
 - Administer grant program for the benefit of PSAPs
- **Funded Projects:**
 - Grants: www.911.gov and click on "Grants"
 - 911 Resource Center: www.911.gov and click on "Resource Center"
 - National 911 Education Coalition: www.know911.org
 - *A National Plan for Migrating to IP-enabled 911 Systems:*
www.911.gov and scroll to bottom of "Funding & Policy" page
 - Collaborative activities with Federal agencies, professional 911 organizations and other national organizations (e.g., NCSL, NARUC)