



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

DOT 104-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel.: (202) 366-5571

DOT SEEKS INFORMATION ON FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAMS

As part of its ongoing effort to ensure fair treatment for airline passengers, the Department of Transportation's Aviation Enforcement Office has asked airlines to provide detailed information about certain aspects of their frequent flyer programs.

In letters to nine U.S. airlines, the department asked for information to be submitted about the availability of seats under these programs and the carriers' disclosure of seat limitations. The letter was sent to all major U.S. passenger carriers except Southwest Airlines, whose frequent flyer program awards are limited only by the capacity of the aircraft.

The department said that its ongoing review of frequent flyer programs indicates that airlines may not be informing consumers adequately about limits on the number of seats being made available for awards under the programs.

DOT requested information about how the carriers disseminate information about frequent flyer programs to their members, especially information about seat limits and program changes. It also asked what percentage of its seats carriers allocate for awards to members of these programs. In addition, the department sought information about which destinations are most often requested for award travel by frequent flyers, and the percentage of seats on the flights to those destinations that are allocated and used for frequent flyer awards.

The department's review of frequent flyer programs began with its "Travelers First" initiative, launched in January 1995, a comprehensive effort to improve consumer protection for air travelers. The most recent letters are the third set in a series of more-focused requests for frequent flyer program information from the airlines. Under "Travelers First," the department also has taken a closer look at airline fare advertising, public charters, and the treatment of air travelers with disabilities, among other things.

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U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 25, 1997

DOT 109-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel: (202) 366-5571

SECRETARY SLATER ANNOUNCES AIRPORT GRANTS FOR WASHINGTON STATE

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today announced the award of \$1 million for improvements at airports in the state of Washington.

“President Clinton is committed to strengthening economic security and improving transportation safety,” Secretary Slater said. “This investment is good for not only the economy of Washington, but also our national economy. These airport improvements will create jobs while providing a basis for future economic expansion as air traffic grows.”

Airports receiving grants were:

- Snohomish County Airport (Payne Field), Everett -- \$460,000 for mitigation of impacts to a wetland stemming from improvements to the runway safety area.
- Bellingham International Airport, Bellingham -- \$344,504 for the final phase of constructing an aircraft parking area.
- Chenhalis-Centralia Airport, Chenhalis -- \$197,950 to construct a taxiway and install taxiway reflectors.

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U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 28, 1997

DOT 110-97

Contact: **BTS Product Line**

Tel.: **(202) 366-DATA**

**DOT RELEASES SECOND EDITION OF THE
*WORLDWIDE TRANSPORTATION DIRECTORY***

Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater announced the release of the Department of Transportation's second edition of the *Worldwide Transportation Directory*, which was designed to help transportation data users, policy makers, planners, researchers, and others to locate essential statistical contacts in different countries. The second edition has been expanded to include country transportation profiles.

"The department's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) continues to provide a valuable service for those who require transportation information from different countries," Secretary Slater said. "Transportation information has become a global commodity. Individual national economies are now more highly linked, and there is a growing need for transportation, trade, and tourism statistics that are timely, accurate, and accessible."

The directory lists, by continent, 1,925 contact points in 189 countries, plus 42 dependencies and areas of special sovereignties. This represents an increase of 174 contact points and 8 additional dependencies and areas of special sovereignties since the first edition in 1995. Data entries were restricted primarily to government and quasi-government agencies and organizations. In addition to these, there are 59 transnational organizations that span the interests and responsibilities of several countries, and in some cases even continents.

Dr. T. R. Lakshmanan, Director of BTS, said, "This comprehensive inventory of transportation data sources is illustrative of the Bureau's continuing commitment to providing accessibility to transportation information, be it here or abroad."

A copy of the report may be ordered by calling (202) 366-DATA, faxing (202) 366-3640, e-mailing orders@bts.gov, or writing the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room 3430, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590. An electronic version of the report is available on the Bureau's Internet site at www.bts.gov.

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**U.S. Department of
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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 28, 1997

DOT 111-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel.: (202) 366-5571

**DOWNEY ANNOUNCES
AIRPORT GRANT FOR BOISE**

BOISE, Idaho -- Deputy Secretary of Transportation Mortimer L. Downey today announced an \$8.4 million grant for improvements at Boise Air Terminal-Gowen Field.

The funds will be used to rehabilitate a runway and install runway lighting and signs.

"President Clinton is committed to strengthening economic security and improving transportation safety," Downey said. "This investment is good for the economy of Boise and will provide a basis for future growth."

This morning, Downey delivered the keynote address at the opening session of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) conference being held here. He called reauthorization of federal highway and transit programs the most significant issue facing the transportation community this year, and that the Clinton administration is working with Congress to enact a bill before the current authorization expires 65 days from now. He said that the administration's proposal, the National Economic Crossroads Transportation Efficiency Act (NEXTEA) can serve as common ground for all who are committed to a sound transportation system that can help the nation meet the challenges of the next century.

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**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 29, 1997

DOT 112-97

Contact: Ben Langer

Telephone: 202-366-5580

**SECRETARY SLATER SAYS U.S. WILL SEND
TRANSPORTATION PLANNERS TO HAITI**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Continuing efforts initiated by President Clinton, U.S.

Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today announced that the Department of Transportation will send a team of experts in roads, seaports and airports to Haiti to assess that country's infrastructure.

Additionally, it was announced that the U.S. Coast Guard, which has helped establish the Haitian Coast Guard, will now work to further expand the operational capabilities of Haiti's patrol boat fleet. The U.S. Coast Guard is an agency of the DOT.

"President Clinton is firmly resolved to assist economic development and progress for Haiti," Secretary Slater said. "One of the fundamental ways that we can help is to determine what is required to develop Haiti's transportation infrastructure so that it can provide the foundation for a strong, free-market economy."

Secretary Slater arrived in Haiti Monday on a two-day mission at the request of President Clinton to build on principles adopted at the Caribbean Summit May 10, to pledge support for economic reform measures introduced by President Rene Preval, and to help Haiti revitalize its transportation system.

Slater said that specialists from the Coast Guard, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and Maritime Administration would go to Haiti later this year. After completing an assessment, they will work with counterparts from Haiti to develop a comprehensive plan. The Federal Aviation Administration, which already has provided an airport plan, will provide the services of a security specialist.

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The plan will take an intermodal perspective so that roads, seaports and airports, when they are improved, will work together efficiently. It also will include recommendations for improvements and cost estimates for resolving transportation infrastructure shortcomings in Haiti, as well as institutional infrastructure needs necessary for long-range planning and maintenance.

The U.S. Coast Guard will lead an interagency survey and evaluation of Haiti's seaports, beginning in August. The U.S. and Canadian coast guards have played a lead role in creating and training the Haitian Coast Guard.

The port assessment will evaluate the ports as they fit into the larger transportation network. MARAD will help Haiti identify specific training needs for port personnel.

The FAA already made recommendations regarding airport security and the air traffic system. It will be providing training and other assistance.

The FHWA will focus on Haiti's need for road improvements, and on strengthening municipal road planning and maintenance activities. It also will reactivate the FHWA's technology transfer center in Haiti. The FTA, working with Haiti's public transportation systems, will provide training in areas such as driver safety, security, maintenance, operations and planning.

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**U.S. Department of
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News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 1, 1997

Contact: Ben Langer

Telephone: 202-366-5580

**STATEMENT BY RODNEY E. SLATER,
U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION,
UPON CONFIRMATION OF JANE GARVEY
AS FAA ADMINISTRATOR**

As we work to become a visionary and vigilant Department of Transportation for the 21st century, I am pleased the Senate moved expeditiously to confirm Jane Garvey, the President's nominee for FAA Administrator. I am confident Jane's leadership and management skills will help the FAA move forward on the bold reforms we need to keep our aviation system the world's safest.

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**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, August 2, 1997

DOT 115-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel.: (202) 366-5571

SECRETARY SLATER ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR SOUNDPROOFING SAN DIEGO SCHOOL

SAN DIEGO -- Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today announced a grant of \$1 million to the San Diego Unified Port District to soundproof a high school against noise from San Diego International Airport (Lindbergh Field).

The funding to soundproof Point Loma High School comes from the Airport Improvement Program of DOT's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This is the latest of several schools in the San Diego area to be soundproofed with FAA funds. DOT anticipates providing additional funding to support the city's ongoing soundproofing program.

"Lindbergh Field's traffic growth has fueled San Diego's economy, but we have to be sensitive to the environment in which our children learn," Secretary Slater said.

The San Diego grant was one of three airport improvement awards announced today by Secretary Slater. San Francisco International Airport received \$10.6 million and Carlsbad's McClellan-Palomar Airport received \$1 million, both for improvements to enhance safety.

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U.S. Department of
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News:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 4, 1997

DOT 116-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel.: (202) 366-5571

**DOT ISSUES MONTHLY
AIR TRAVEL CONSUMER REPORT**

The Department of Transportation today issued its monthly Air Travel Consumer Report, which contains information about airline on-time arrivals, mishandled baggage and consumer complaints for June 1997.

The 10 largest U.S. carriers posted a 76.1 percent on-time record in June, not as good as May's 82.8 percent mark but better than June 1996's 74.7 percent.

The airlines reported a mishandled baggage rate of 4.86 complaints per 1,000 passengers in June, also not as good as May's 3.90 rate but an improvement over June 1996's 5.02 mark.

Consumers registered 759 complaints about airline service with the department in June, a slight increase from the 731 complaints received in May and 43 percent above the 530 tallied in June 1996.

Consumers may file their complaints with the Aviation Consumer Protection Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, C-75, 400 7th St., S.W., Room 4107, Washington, D.C. 20590.

The department reminded consumers who want on-time performance data for specific flights to call their airline ticket offices or their travel agents. This information is available on the computerized reservation systems used by these agents.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 4, 1997

DOT 117-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel: (202) 366-5571

SECRETARY SLATER ANNOUNCES AIRPORT GRANTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today announced the award of \$13.6 million for improvements at airports in North Carolina.

"President Clinton is committed to strengthening economic security and improving transportation safety," Secretary Slater said. "This investment is good for not only the economy of North Carolina, but also our national economy. These airport improvements will create jobs while providing a basis for future economic expansion as air traffic grows."

Airports receiving grants were:

- Charlotte/Douglas International Airport, Charlotte -- \$8.3 million to construct a taxiway, expand an apron, acquire land for noise compatibility and soundproof residences.
- Piedmont Triad International Airport, Greensboro -- \$750,000 to acquire aircraft rescue and firefighting equipment and install a security system.
- Raleigh-Durham International Airport, Raleigh -- \$660,000 to install runway lighting.
- New Hanover International Airport, Wilmington -- \$450,000 to install security fencing.
- Smith Reynolds Airport, Winston-Salem -- \$427,000 to rehabilitate a taxiway.
- Fayetteville Regional Airport/Grannis Field, Fayetteville -- \$290,000 to acquire an aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle.

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In addition, the state received a block grant of \$2.7 million for various development projects at nonprimary airports in the state. Of this total, \$2.1 million will be used for the construction of the new Sanford-Lee County Airport in Sanford.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 4, 1997

DOT 118-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel: (202) 366-5571

SECRETARY SLATER ANNOUNCES AIRPORT GRANTS FOR TEXAS

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today announced the award of \$13.9 million for improvements at airports in Texas.

“President Clinton is committed to strengthening economic security and improving transportation safety,” Secretary Slater said. “This investment is good for not only the economy of Texas, but also our national economy. These airport improvements will create jobs while providing a basis for future economic expansion as air traffic grows.”

The state received a block grant of \$1.2 million which will be used to rehabilitate a runway and taxiway at Grand Prairie Municipal Airport in Grand Prairie, and to widen a taxiway at Fort Worth’s Alliance Airport for conversion to an auxiliary runway. The state also received \$750,000 to update the state system plan for general aviation and reliever airports.

Individual airports receiving grants were:

- Lubbock International Airport, Lubbock -- \$4.4 million to rehabilitate a runway and install runway lighting and signs.
- San Antonio International Airport, San Antonio -- \$3 million to soundproof seven churches against aircraft noise and install a noise monitoring system, and to construct an apron.
- Corpus Christi International Airport, Corpus Christi -- \$1.7 million to rehabilitate runway.

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- Easterwood Field, College Station -- \$1.4 million to acquire an aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle and to construct a building to house it.
- Jefferson County Airport, Beaumont/Port Arthur -- \$1.3 million to reconstruct a runway, widen taxiways, install runway lights and acquire a power sweeper vehicle for keeping runways and taxiways free of debris.
- Gregg County Airport, Longview -- \$225,000 to rehabilitate the aircraft rescue and firefighting building.

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**U.S. Department of
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Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, August 13, 1997

DOT 123-97

Contact: Bill Adams

Telephone: 202-366-5580

**TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES
REVIEW OF AVIATION SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS**

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today announced that the department's Inspector General and the Federal Aviation Administration will conduct a follow-up review to assess the implementation of recommendations by the FAA's 90-day safety review task force.

"Jane Garvey and Kenneth Mead bring to their offices a strong commitment to safety, and I commend them for initiating this review," Secretary Slater said. "It reflects President Clinton's commitment to safety as his highest transportation priority and marks new leadership at both the FAA and Office of Inspector General."

The 90-day safety review, which was conducted last year to identify ways to improve the safety of aviation, resulted in six principal recommendation areas, more than 30 supporting recommendations, and numerous implementation strategies. The final report was issued on Sept. 16, 1996.

FAA Administrator Jane F. Garvey asked for the follow-up safety review to determine FAA's progress toward, among other things:

- Strengthening the requirements for conducting safety surveillance and more closely overseeing the growth of new airlines;
- Creating a national safety certification team to help field offices process new air carrier certifications and conduct safety audits;
- Expediting the fielding of new information management technology so inspectors have the right information at the right time;
- Increasing the number of safety inspectors at critical locations; and

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- Establishing a training center of excellence to improve technical and managerial training of the safety inspection workforce.

The review will include FAA subject matter experts working alongside staff from the Inspector General's office to assess FAA progress. The review also will identify further actions FAA can take to target its safety resources more strategically and respond more quickly to changing safety needs of the industry.

Leading the project for the Inspector General will be Lawrence H. Weintrob, assistant inspector general for auditing, and for the FAA, Guy S. Gardner, associate administrator for regulation and certification.

The review will be conducted at FAA headquarters and selected field locations, and is expected to be completed by Nov. 30, 1997. The results of the review will be reported to the Secretary of Transportation.

Public reports issued by the Office of the Inspector General are available on the Internet's World Wide Web at <http://www.dot.gov/oig/>. FAA information is available at <http://www.faa.gov>.

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U.S. Department of
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News:

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Washington, D.C. 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefing.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, September 4, 1997

DOT 133-97

Contact: Bill Adams

Tel.: (202) 366-5580

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES \$5.7 MILLION FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

Vice President Al Gore today announced the award of grants totaling \$5,701,892 to three airports in the state of New Hampshire -- Lebanon, Keene and Manchester -- for various airport projects.

These grants are being used under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). The AIP provides financial assistance to regional and local airport sponsors for airport planning and development projects.

"This Administration is committed to maintaining our nations airports and expanding capacity where necessary," said Vice President Gore. "These grants will help us do that by making an important investment in the economy and creating new jobs."

The airports will receive the following grants amounts and airport improvements:

- **Lebanon Regional Airport**, which will receive \$2,101,892, is a non-hub primary airport with approximately 50,000 annual enplanements. AIP funds will allow the airport sponsor to rehabilitate the primary runway, extend the safety area and mitigate wetlands near the safety area.
- **Dillant-Hopkins Airport**, which will receive \$1,100,000, is a general aviation airport with 54 aircraft based at the airport and has approximately 2,500 enplanements annually. AIP funds will be used to purchase two parcels of land to meet federal and state safety requirements by removing airport obstructions.
- **Manchester Municipal Airport**, which will receive \$2,500,000, is a small hub airport with 122 aircraft based on the airport. AIP funds will be used for soundproofing in Manchester and Londonderry.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, September 4, 1997

DOT 133-97

Contact: Bill Adams

Tel.: (202) 366-5580

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES \$5.7 MILLION FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

Vice President Al Gore today announced the award of grants totaling \$5,701,892 to three airports in the state of New Hampshire -- Lebanon, Keene and Manchester -- for various airport projects.

These grants are being used under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). The AIP provides financial assistance to regional and local airport sponsors for airport planning and development projects.

"This Administration is committed to maintaining our nations airports and expanding capacity where necessary," said Vice President Gore. "These grants will help us do that by making an important investment in the economy and creating new jobs."

The airports will receive the following grants amounts and airport improvements:

- **Lebanon Regional Airport**, which will receive \$2,101,892, is a non-hub primary airport with approximately 50,000 annual enplanements. AIP funds will allow the airport sponsor to rehabilitate the primary runway, extend the safety area and mitigate wetlands near the safety area.
- **Dillant-Hopkins Airport**, which will receive \$1,100,000, is a general aviation airport with 54 aircraft based at the airport and has approximately 2,500 enplanements annually. AIP funds will be used to purchase two parcels of land to meet federal and state safety requirements by removing airport obstructions.
- **Manchester Municipal Airport**, which will receive \$2,500,000, is a small hub airport with 122 aircraft based on the airport. AIP funds will be used for soundproofing in Manchester and Londonderry.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 4, 1997

DOT 132-97
Contact: Bill Mosley
Tel.: (202) 366-5571

FEWER FLIGHT DELAYS, MISHANDLED BAGS, CONSUMER COMPLAINTS IN JULY, DOT REPORTS

The major U.S. airlines recorded fewer flight delays and mishandled bags in July while consumers filed fewer complaints with the Department of Transportation about airline service, DOT said today in issuing its monthly Air Travel Consumer Report.

The carriers also bumped fewer passengers in the second quarter of 1997 than during the previous quarter, the report notes.

The 10 largest U.S. carriers posted a 77.5 percent on-time record in July, slightly better than both June's 76.1 mark and July 1996's 75.3 rate.

The airlines reported a mishandled baggage rate of 4.82 complaints per 1,000 passengers in July, an improvement over both June's 4.86 rate and July 1996's 5.17 mark.

Consumers registered 680 complaints about airline service with the department in July, down from the 759 recorded in June and the 757 complaints filed in July 1996.

The carriers had a rate of denied boarding, or bumping, of 1.20 per 10,000 passengers during the second quarter of 1997, better than the 1.51 rate posed during the first quarter of this year but not as good as the 1.06 rate for the second quarter of 1996.

Consumers may file their complaints with the Aviation Consumer Protection Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, C-75, 400 7th St., S.W., Room 4107, Washington, D.C. 20590.

The department reminded consumers who want on-time performance data for specific flights to call their airline ticket offices or their travel agents. This information is available on the computerized reservation systems used by these agents.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, September 4, 1997

DOT 132-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel.: (202) 366-5571

FEWER FLIGHT DELAYS, MISHANDLED BAGS, CONSUMER COMPLAINTS IN JULY, DOT REPORTS

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The 10 largest U.S. carriers posted a 77.5 percent on-time record in July, slightly better than both June's 76.1 mark and July 1996's 75.3 rate.

The airlines reported a mishandled baggage rate of 4.82 complaints per 1,000 passengers in July, an improvement over both June's 4.86 rate and July 1996's 5.17 mark.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 5, 1997

DOT 135-97

Contact: Bill Adams

Tel.: (202) 366-5580

**SULLIVAN NAMED DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
AT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater named Suzanne Sullivan, currently special assistant to Deputy Secretary of Transportation Mortimer Downey, to be deputy chief of staff at the Department of Transportation.

"I look forward to having Suzanne's skills and talents on my leadership team," Slater said. "Her knowledge of transportation issues and experience on Capitol Hill makes her a tremendous asset as we work to achieve President Clinton's transportation priorities."

Sullivan was appointed special assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Transportation in January, 1995. In that capacity she managed the Office of the Deputy Secretary and held broad responsibilities for policy formulation and legislative strategy. In 1997 she also oversaw a nationwide series of special events and programs in connection with the Department's 30th anniversary celebration.

A Capitol Hill veteran, Sullivan served from 1993 to 1995 as special assistant to the chief of staff of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation. Her responsibilities included coordinating the committee chairman's transportation-related activities and developing strategies for advancing the committee's legislative agenda.

Sullivan served from 1990 to 1993 as assistant to the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, where she was instrumental in developing the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA).

Until 1990, Sullivan was Legislative Director for Representative Norman Y. Mineta of California, managing the congressman's legislative staff and serving as primary contact with the House leadership.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 19, 1997

DOT 144-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel: (202) 366-5571

**SECRETARY SLATER ANNOUNCES
AIRPORT GRANTS FOR MISSOURI**

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today announced the award of \$15 million for improvements at airports in Missouri.

“President Clinton is committed to strengthening economic security and improving transportation safety,” Secretary Slater said. “This investment is good for not only the economy of Missouri, but also our national economy. These airport improvements will create jobs while providing a basis for future economic expansion as air traffic grows.”

Kansas City International Airport was awarded \$10.5 million to continue rehabilitating a runway and an apron, and Lambert-St. Louis International Airport received \$4.1 million to reconstruct a taxiway. In addition, the state of Missouri received a grant of \$189,473 to continue its airport planning process, and the East/West Gateway was awarded \$194,850 to continue airport planning for metropolitan St. Louis.

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U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefing.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, September 26, 1997

DOT 151-97
Contact: Bill Mosley
Tel: (202) 366-5571

VICE PRESIDENT GORE AND SECRETARY SLATER ANNOUNCE AIRPORT GRANTS FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE

Vice President Al Gore and Transportation Secretary Rodney E. Slater today announced the award of \$13.3 million for improvements at airports in New Hampshire.

“Traffic at New Hampshire’s airports has helped fuel the region’s vibrant economy,” said Vice President Gore. “President Clinton and I are committed to strengthening economic security and improving transportation safety. This investment is good for the economy of New Hampshire and our nation.”

Manchester Airport received a total of \$8.9 million. \$5.7 million will be used to construct a runway, and \$3.2 million to acquire land for development.

In addition, Pease International Tradeport, located in Portsmouth, received \$4.4 million to install an instrument landing system and an approach lighting system.

The funds come from the Federal Aviation Administration’s Airport Improvement Program.

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U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

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Washington, D.C. 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefing.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 29, 1997

DOT 152-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel.: (202) 366-5571

SECRETARY SLATER ANNOUNCES \$75 MILLION FOR ATLANTA RUNWAY

Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today announced a federal Letter of Intent for \$75 million to Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport through the year 2009 for construction of a fifth runway.

“With the second-busiest airport in the world, an efficient facility is absolutely essential for Atlanta to compete -- and win -- in the global economy of the 21st century,” Secretary Slater said in a telephone call to Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell. “Nearly a third of America’s economic growth in recent years has come from selling products to overseas markets. And Atlanta -- indeed of all the South -- will be a key gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean. So, by expanding the airport, you will help assure Atlanta is positioned to take full advantage of expanding trade. And, at the same time, you will be creating jobs while saving airlines \$300 million a year by reducing costly flight delays.”

The 6,000-foot runway will serve commuter aircraft, and help reduce delays by separating these flights from larger aircraft. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 1998 and be completed in 2002.

The cost of the runway and associated land acquisition is expected to total \$468 million. In addition to the federal funds, which come from the Federal Aviation Administration’s Airport Improvement Program, the city will use local funds and bonds backed by passenger facility charges to finance the project. Over the last five years, DOT has granted Atlanta over \$80 million for noise compatibility and airfield improvement projects.

A Letter of Intent is a commitment by the government to provide a stream of funding over several years for a major project.

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U.S. Department of
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News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefing.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 26, 1997

DOT 150-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel: (202) 366-5571

SECRETARY SLATER ANNOUNCES AIRPORT GRANTS FOR NEW YORK

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today announced the award of \$24.5 million for improvements at airports in New York.

"President Clinton is committed to strengthening economic security and improving transportation safety," Secretary Slater said. "This investment is good for not only the economy of New York, but also our national economy. These airport improvements will create jobs while providing a basis for future economic expansion as air traffic grows."

Airports receiving grants were:

- Greater Rochester International Airport, Rochester -- \$5.5 million to rehabilitate a runway and construct a deicing facility, as well as a \$632,772 increase in a previously announced grant to rehabilitate a runway.
- Westchester County Airport, White Plains -- \$6 million to rehabilitate a runway.
- John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York -- \$1.9 million to install a security system, and \$630,000 to install security fencing.
- East Hampton Airport, East Hampton -- \$2.1 million to rehabilitate a runway, and \$132,355 to prepare an environmental assessment of proposed projects.
- Chautauqua County/Jamestown Airport, Jamestown -- \$1.7 million to reconstruct a runway.
- Warren County Airport, Glen Falls -- \$1.4 million to rehabilitate a runway and taxiway.
- Albany County Airport, Albany -- \$1.2 million to acquire land for noise compatibility.

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- Binghamton Regional Airport/Edwin A. Link Field, Binghamton -- \$1 million to rehabilitate a runway.
- LaGuardia Airport, New York -- \$930,000 to install a security system.
- Perry-Warsaw Airport, Perry -- \$630,000 to extend a taxiway and improve drainage.
- LeRoy Airport, LeRoy -- \$270,000 to rehabilitate a runway, remove obstructions and acquire land for approaches.
- Republic Airport, Farmingdale -- \$150,000 to acquire an aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicle.
- Williamson-Sodus Airport, Williamson-Sodus -- \$79,200 to reconstruct a taxiway.
- Chautauqua County/Dunkirk Airport, Dunkirk -- \$54,000 to improve the runway safety area.
- Greater Buffalo International Airport, Buffalo -- \$19,313 to acquire snow removal equipment.

In addition to individual airport grants, the state received \$300,000 to conduct a state system plan study.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

DOT 159-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel.: (202) 366-5571

**DOT ISSUES MONTHLY
AIR TRAVEL CONSUMER REPORT**

The Department of Transportation today issued its monthly Air Travel Consumer Report, which contains information about airline on-time arrivals, mishandled baggage and consumer complaints for August 1997.

The 10 largest U.S. carriers posted a 78.6 percent on-time record in August, an improvement over both July's 77.5 percent mark and August 1996's 74.7 percent.

The airlines reported a mishandled baggage rate of 5.09 complaints per 1,000 passengers in August, an increase from the 4.82 complaints received in July and slightly below August 1996's 5.13 mark.

Consumers registered 623 complaints about airline service with the department in August, a decrease from the 680 complaints received in July and 7 percent below the 672 tallied in August 1996.

Consumers may file their complaints with the Aviation Consumer Protection Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, C-75, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Room 4107, Washington, D.C. 20590.

The department reminded consumers who want on-time performance data for specific flights to call their airline ticket offices or their travel agents. This information is available on the computerized reservation systems used by these agents.

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*An electronic version of this document can be obtained via the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/index.htm>*



U.S. Department of
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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, October 1, 1997

DOT 160-97
Contact: Bill Mosley
Tel.: (202) 366-5571

DOT ANNOUNCES ACTION ON AIRLINE SECURITY AND DISCRIMINATION

Reacting to the Department of Justice (DOJ) review of airline security procedures and civil rights, Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater said the Department of Transportation will put in place the DOJ recommendations to ensure that airline security screening complies fully with civil rights laws while maintaining the highest levels of aviation security.

"Safety is our highest priority, but we must also be vigilant about protecting the civil rights of airline passengers," Slater said.

Secretary Slater met recently with civil rights groups to listen to their concerns about civil rights and passenger screening procedures.

The department's actions come as a follow-up to the completion of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) review of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-mandated airline security screening process and its findings that the required procedures do not violate the civil rights of airline passengers.

"The Federal Aviation Administration is moving swiftly to implement the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security recommendations on passenger screening by Dec. 31," FAA Administrator Jane F. Garvey said. "I'm confident both the FAA and the airlines will continue to enhance the security of the world's safest aviation system while ensuring the civil rights of passengers are not violated."

Today, DOJ announced the completion of its review of the FAA-mandated security screening process. That review, conducted by DOJ's Civil Rights Division, covered both the existing manual security screening process as well as the contemplated computer-assisted passenger screening system (CAPS), which is currently being tested. DOJ found that neither procedure unlawfully discriminates against passengers based on their race, ethnicity, national origin or religion. DOJ did recommend certain followup actions DOT could take to ensure that the civil rights of the traveling public are maintained in an air transportation environment secure from terrorist threats.

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The White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, in their report issued earlier this year, recommended that a computer-assisted passenger screening system be implemented by Dec. 31, 1997, and that the FAA screening procedures be reviewed to ensure compliance with the civil rights laws.

Among the steps announced by DOT, in part in response to the DOJ recommendations, are the following:

- DOT will distribute a flyer to airlines and airports to be made available to passengers subject to security screening procedures. The flyer will explain the security screening process and provide information on how passengers may file discrimination complaints with the Department.
- DOT's Aviation Enforcement Office will continue to investigate aggressively each discrimination complaint it receives from airline passengers. Currently it is investigating 46 complaints alleging discrimination in the security screening process. The department will be meeting with airline executives to discuss security procedures and actions by their employees and security contractors that may have led to complaints and suggest steps to avoid those problems
- DOT over the next year will conduct an in-depth survey of FAA security screening procedures to determine if they have a disparate impact based on race, ethnicity, national origin or religion. If they do, the FAA also will establish the extent of any such impact and determine whether changes to the procedures to lessen the disparate impact, without diminishing the security benefits of the system, are feasible. Thereafter, periodic reviews of the procedures will be conducted to ensure continued compliance with the civil rights laws.
- The FAA will take steps to strengthen its requirements for airline employee/contractor security training requirements to ensure that these persons are sensitive to civil rights issues and that they have the necessary communication and interpersonal skills to handle difficult situations without any embarrassing, disrespectful or stigmatizing conduct.
- The FAA will take steps to provide its security personnel with additional civil rights training. This training will prove valuable when those personnel review the security procedures of airlines, enabling them to point out potential civil rights problems and recommend solutions. In line with DOJ recommendations, U.S. air carriers will be required to obtain pre-approval before implementing any passenger screening system in addition to the procedures prescribed by the FAA.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 24, 1997

DOT 171-97

Contacts:

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FAA: Rebecca Trexler, (202) 267-8521

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES REVIEW OF CONTROLS OVER AIR COURIER SHIPMENTS

U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney E. Slater today announced that the department's Inspector General and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will conduct a joint review of security controls over accompanied commercial air courier shipments.

"Safety is President Clinton's highest transportation priority and this combined effort demonstrates how we are teaming up to keep our aviation system the safest in the world," said Secretary Slater. "The Inspector General's office has critical skills which complement the FAA's in-depth knowledge of hazardous materials issues and security regulations and procedures. Together they will provide a complete view of security in this area of transportation."

The review was prompted by an Oct. 1 incident at the Miami International Airport in which passengers boarding an American Airlines flight for Ecuador had to be evacuated when noxious fumes permeated the plane's cabin. Although the case is still under investigation, it appears that a passenger acting as an "accompanying commercial courier" for a freight forwarder had checked bags that were leaking a corrosive pesticide.

During the next several weeks, the joint team will perform intensive oversight inspections of accompanied commercial air courier shipments that are presented for flight aboard passenger aircraft. The team will be looking closely to make certain that:

- Air carriers and indirect air carriers are following FAA-approved security programs. (Air courier services are classified under regulations as indirect air carriers.)
- Indirect air carriers are declaring and documenting all shipments, including hazardous materials.
- Shippers are properly packaging, marking, labeling and documenting all hazardous materials.

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The FAA's Office of Civil Aviation Security has already begun a review of FAA requirements and procedures for accompanied commercial air courier shipments. The FAA and the Inspector General's office will work together to evaluate whether current requirements need to be strengthened or amended.

Lawrence H. Weintrob, Assistant Inspector General for Auditing, and Cathal Flynn, FAA Associate Administrator for Civil Aviation Security, will lead the joint review. The review will be conducted at selected air carriers, indirect air carriers and airports throughout the United States and is expected to be completed in November. The results will be provided to the Secretary of Transportation.

This is the second joint effort between the Inspector General's office and the FAA that Secretary Slater has announced since coming into office. The first was a follow-up review to assess the implementation of recommendations by the FAA's 90-day Safety Review Task Force. In September 1996, the Task Force identified six principal recommendation areas, more than 30 supporting recommendations and numerous implementation strategies. The joint Inspector General/FAA team will determine what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations. Their report will be presented to the Secretary of Transportation on Nov. 30.

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U.S. Department of
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 29, 1997

DOT 177-97

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**Task Force on Assistance to Families
of Aviation Disasters Issues Final Report**

The Task Force on Assistance to Families of Aviation Disasters issued its final report today, containing 61 recommendations on how to improve the treatment family members receive following an aviation disaster.

“We must make sure that family members receive the information and support that they need following an aviation disaster,” said Vice President Gore, who chaired the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. “The recommendations issued today will help provide better and more compassionate care to these grieving families.”

“Many of the recommendations boil down to this,” said Secretary Rodney E. Slater, co-chairman of the task force, “We need to do a better job in this country of respecting people as they grieve. This report provides a blueprint for how to do this.”

“I am certain that the American people have been well served by the task force’s efforts and am honored to have been a part of it,” said Chairman Hall. “We tackled several difficult issues and addressed them with compassion and professionalism.”

The recommendations of the task force cover all aspects of the assistance that should be provided to the survivors of an aviation disaster and the families of the victims of those disasters. In particular, the task force focused on providing guidelines to air carriers on methods to improve the assistance they provide families. For example, the task force specifically recommended that airlines better train their employees who assist family members. The task force also called upon representatives of media organizations and the legal community to more fully respect the rights of families in the aftermath of aviation disasters.

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Following the presentation of the final report, Secretary Slater announced that he will ask the task force members to serve on an advisory committee to review the implementation of the recommendations, as well as to help the government continue to improve upon the assistance provided to families at these tragic times.

Secretary Slater announced the formation of the task force on March 5, 1997. The task force was mandated by the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 and also examined issues at the request of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. The task force has 22 members, including representatives of state governments, the aviation industry, the media, the legal profession and a survivor of an aviation disaster and four family members of the victims of aviation disasters.

Following today's briefing, copies of the report will be available at <http://www.dot.gov/briefing.htm>.

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News:

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Washington, D.C. 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefing.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 29, 1997

DOT 178-97

Contact: Bill Adams

Tel.: (202) 366-5580

Slater Announces Informal Consultations on U.S.-China Civil Aviation Relationship

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater today agreed with the head of China's Civil Aviation Administration to begin informal consultations on expanding and modernizing the U.S.-China civil aviation relationship.

During a meeting this morning, Secretary Slater and Minister Chen Guangyi discussed the interest of both the U.S. and China in expanding opportunities for additional aviation services, noting that the limits on the allowable number of flights for each country will soon be exceeded. They also noted the importance of additional routes and points to be served in each country.

Currently, the U.S.-China aviation bilateral agreement imposes significant limits on the number of carriers that may serve the U.S.-China market, the routes they can serve, the frequencies they can operate, and the fares they can charge. In agreeing to have their officials begin an exchange of views on expanding the current relationship, Secretary Slater and Minister Chen underscored the importance of enhanced international aviation service to the development of the overall U.S.-China relationship.

"Consistent with President Clinton's initiative to engage China in a positive dialogue to expand our economic relations, we look forward to working with China to expand and modernize our aviation relationship," said Secretary Slater. "By bringing a more market-oriented approach to bear in the important aviation sector, we can also enhance the opportunities for commerce, trade and tourism between our two nations.

U.S.-China aviation relations are governed by a 1980 transport agreement which was last modified in 1995. It limits the number of international airlines serving the market to three for each side, restricts the number of routes and points that may be served, and limits to 27 the number of scheduled weekly flights for each country.

A report of the Air Transport Action Group this year projected that China will become the largest Asia-Pacific country for international and domestic passenger travel by the year 2010, with a total traffic projected to quadruple from 1995 to 2010. China's share of total Asia-Pacific traffic is projected to rise from 16 percent in 1995 to 26 percent in 2010, eclipsing Japan's share, which is projected by ATAG to decline from 30.8 percent in 1995 to 20.1 percent in 2010.

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U.S. Department of
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

DOT 182-97

Contact: Bill Mosley

Tel.: (202) 366-5571

**DOT ISSUES MONTHLY
AIR TRAVEL CONSUMER REPORT**

The Department of Transportation today issued its monthly Air Travel Consumer Report, which contains information about airline on-time arrivals, mishandled baggage and consumer complaints for September 1997.

The 10 largest U.S. carriers posted an 85.0 percent on-time record in September, an improvement over both August's 78.6 percent mark and September 1996's 78.7 percent.

The airlines reported a mishandled baggage rate of 4.12 complaints per 1,000 passengers in September, a decrease from the 5.09 complaints received in August and below September 1996's 4.51 mark.

Consumers registered 553 complaints about airline service with the department in September, an 11 percent decrease from the 623 complaints received in August and 2 percent below the 565 tallied in September 1996.

Consumers may file their complaints with the Aviation Consumer Protection Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, C-75, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Room 4107, Washington, D.C. 20590.

The department reminded consumers who want on-time performance data for specific flights to call their airline ticket offices or their travel agents. This information is available on the computerized reservation systems used by these agents.

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