

# NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

## OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN



Status Update 2017-2018

June 2017



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## About the NTSB

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, the NTSB carries out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinates the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members impacted by major transportation disasters.

The NTSB has five Board Members, each nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate to serve a 5-year term. One

Member is designated by the President as the Chairman and another member as the Vice Chairman, each for a 2-year term. The chairmanship requires a separate Senate confirmation. When there is no designated Chairman, the Vice Chairman serves as the Acting Chairman.

### Legislative Mandate

**Maintaining** our congressionally mandated independence and objectivity;

**Conducting** objective, precise accident investigations and safety studies;

**Performing** fair and objective airman and mariner certification appeals;

**Advocating and promoting** safety recommendations; and,

**Assisting** victims of transportation accidents and their families

## Core Values

### **Safety**

We are as dedicated to our own safety and that of those in our charge, both on and off duty, as we are the safety of those we serve.

### **Excellence**

We are devoted to the continuous pursuit of excellence in our profession.

### **Independence**

Our ability to execute our mission requires the diligent preservation of our separation and independence from any other agency of the United States.

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### **Integrity**

The integrity of our work demands faithful adherence to ethical behavior and steadfast personal integrity.

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

We value the spectrum of experiences, backgrounds and perspectives within our workforce and strive to foster a collaborative work environment built upon mutual respect.

### **Transparency**

We are committed to the forthright, timely and purposeful release of information that provides the accountability the public rightly demands and maintains the public trust bestowed upon our agency.



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## Vision

### **Making Transportation Safer**

The agency will use its lessons learned from accident investigations to lead the transportation safety community and eliminate deaths and injuries. We will leverage our staff expertise to be proactive in accident mitigation.

## Mission

**Making transportation safer by conducting independent accident investigations, advocating safety improvements, and deciding airmen and mariners' certification appeals.**

Being a premier agency and unique in our independence to improve transportation safety is at the forefront of how the agency conducts our daily business. Within this mission, we focus on the core of what do as an agency and how we are to encourage and share information to all stakeholders to make transportation safer.

## Introduction

In the Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, issued on January 21, 2009, the President instructed the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue an Open Government Directive. Responding to that instruction, the memorandum was intended to direct executive departments and agencies to take specific actions to implement the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration set forth in the President's Memorandum. This Directive was informed by recommendations from the Federal Chief Technology Officer, who solicited public comment through the White House Open Government Initiative.

NTSB's Open Government Plan is the public roadmap that details how the agency has incorporate the principles of the President's January 21, 2009, Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government into the core mission objectives of the agency.



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## Components of the Plans and Status

### Transparency:

As one of its core values, NTSB is committed to the forthright, timely and purposeful release of information that provides the accountability the public rightly demands and maintains the public trust bestowed upon our agency. Following agency high-value information and inventories have been published by the agency in support of this component of the plan

- **Accident Reports:** Accident Reports are one of the main products of an NTSB investigation. Reports provide details about the accident, analysis of the factual data, conclusions and the probable cause of the accident, and the related safety recommendations. Most reports focus on a single accident, though the NTSB also produces reports addressing issues common to a set of similar accidents. **Status: Complete**
- **Safety Studies :** are the examination of the effectiveness of or need for policies, programs, program management and operating practices, regulations, rulemaking, or other actions of a Government agency in reducing transportation losses; the technical aspects of a transportation system, subsystem, or component; accident data through statistical analysis techniques; or the history and progress of safety improvements undertaken to solve a particular problem in aviation, highway, railroad, pipeline, marine, or hazardous materials transportation. **Status: Complete**
- **Opinion and Orders:** are decisions of the Board resulting from the review of appeals from decisions of the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard involving seamen's certificates or initial decisions of the NTSB Administrative Law Judges involving airmen and/or air safety certificates. **Status: Complete**
- **Annual Aviation Reviews** contain statistical tabulations and graphs of data compiled from reports of accidents involving US air carriers, commuter and on-demand carriers, and general aviation operations in a calendar year. The report is divided into sections according to the Part of the Code of Federal Regulations under which the aircraft were flown when the accidents occurred. **Status: Complete**
- The Aviation Accident Database contains information from 1962 and later about civil aviation accidents and selected incidents within the United States, its territories and possessions, and in international waters. **Status: Complete**



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- Safety Recommendations are issued by the NTSB following the investigation of transportation accidents and the completion of safety studies. Recommendations usually address a specific issue uncovered during an investigation or study and specify how to correct the situation. **Status: Complete**
- NTSB Datasets published on Data.Gov for public consumption. **Status: Complete**
- Electronic Reading Room: "Proactive disclosure" of documents automatically posted online and available to the public without having to make a FOIA request. **Status: Complete**
- Publications are the formal reports produced by NTSB **Status: Complete**

Following links on the NTSB's public facing website support above efforts:

- [Open Government](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [NTSB Strategic Plans and Actions](#)
- [FOIA Reports](#)

### **Participation:**

As a part of NTSB's mission, we focus on the core of what to do as an agency and how we are to encourage and share information to all stakeholders to make transportation safer. Following are the descriptions of and links to current and planned websites where the public can engage in existing participatory processes of our agency:

- [FOIA Online Submission](#) : This portal provides members of the public with basic information on how to obtain access to records maintained by National Transportation Safety Board. **Status: Complete**
- [Submit a Traffic Collision and Alerting System \(TCAS\) Report](#)
- [Report All Other Accidents/ Incidents](#)

### **Collaboration:**

Following current and planned resources support NTSB's commitment to improve collaboration.

- [Online Comments](#)
- [Eyewitness Report](#)
- [Contact Disaster Assistance](#)



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### **Flagship Initiative:**

The proposed Multi-Modal Accident Database Management System is an enterprise line-of-business application that encompasses the workflow and case management of an NTSB event cross across all modal offices, from event initialization to report publishing. This will result in consolidation and standardization of processes and significant improvement in data collection and usage. The functionality will result in automating core functions like initial notifications, workflow, integration with external/ internal official data systems and recording of key events and milestones for all modal offices. This will improve process efficiency, facilitate transparency and improve collaboration.

By standardizing data collection and enforcing data integrity through the application, NTSB can use data analytical techniques to identify recurrences, patterns, and relationships that enhance productivity and are critical to mission success. This will improve the quality of accident data the Board makes available to the public and accident selection and allocation of limited resources.

[Status: In process](#)



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## FOOTNOTES

1. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/foia-memo-march2009.pdf>

2. The Federal Government has defined information in OMB Circular A-130, "Management of Federal Information Resources," as any communication or representation of knowledge such as facts, data, or opinions presented in any medium or format.