



# National Transportation Safety Board

## Baltimore, MD School Bus Operator Oversight

Mike Fox

# Overview

- Poor oversight by:
  - AAAfordable Transportation
  - Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)
- Early recommendations
- Audit results

# AAAffordable Transportation

- Hired in May 2014 (left in April 2016)
- Reliable Transportation April–May 2016
  - Staff witnessed seizure
- Rehired in August 2016
- No background check

# Seizure at AAAfordable Transportation

- Had seizure October 24, 1 week prior to crash
- Witnessed by dispatcher
- Requested doctor's release to duty
- Continued to be dispatched for 5 days until crash without doctor's release

# FMCSRs §392.3, III or Fatigued Operator

- *“No driver shall operate a commercial motor vehicle...while the driver's ability or alertness is so impaired, or so likely to become impaired, through fatigue, illness, or any other cause...”*
- Poor oversight allowed driver to be dispatched when he was medically unfit

# Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)

- Heavily involved with daily operations
- Maintained all documentation
  - Driver training
  - Medical certification
  - DOT drug testing
  - MVA driving records/crash reports
  - Criminal background checks



# Driver History at BCPS

- 2008–2016 worked for 5 contractors
- 5 school bus crashes
  - October 2011 “*passed out*”
  - No followup or action taken

# BCPS Oversight Issues

- Failed to follow its own SOPs
- Crash reports incomplete
- Lacked threshold for crashes
- No appreciable damage reports
- Failed to follow COMAR



# Early Safety Recommendations to BCPS

- Request independent and neutral third party conduct performance audit (Urgent)
- Take corrective actions recommended by audit to improve internal controls
- Audit completed January 31, 2018

# Summary

- AAAfordable allowed medically unfit driver to operate school bus
- BCPS failed to recognize driver was high risk
- Audit shows numerous deficiencies and noncompliance with COMAR



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