THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

September 10, 2010

Policy Statement on Whistleblowing
2010

The U.S Department of Transportation is committed to protecting current and former Federal employees and job applicants from interference and retaliation when making protected disclosures, or "whistleblowing," includes providing information related to a violation of law, rule, or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. The Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 protects individuals who report Federal agency misconduct. The Department will initiate appropriate actions against responsible persons who take, threaten to take, or fail to take a personnel action with respect to any employee or applicant because of any protected disclosure of information. In 2002, the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR Act) was enacted to make all Federal agencies accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws.

The Department will not tolerate whistleblower reprisal. Legitimate disclosure of information by employees is an invaluable resource for the oversight of government operations. Therefore, it is my expectation that employees are able to report these matters confidentially to the Department's Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, or appropriate management officials. Anyone who interferes with or retaliates against any current or former employee or job applicant making a protected disclosure will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

I am committed to maintaining the Department's role as a Federal agency that respects the rights of current and former Federal employees or job applicants to raise legitimate concerns without fear of reprisal. I ask everyone to join me in implementing and communicating this important policy.

Ray LaHood