



# Memorandum

U.S. Department of  
Transportation

Office of the Secretary  
Of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement—Review of  
Security Controls over the American Recovery and  
Reinvestment Act Related Websites, DOT  
Project Number: 10U3002F000

Date: December 8, 2009

From: Rebecca C. Leng *Rebecca Leng*  
Assistant Inspector General for Financial  
and Information Technology Audits

Reply To

Attn Of: JA-20

To: Chief Information Officer

We are initiating a security control audit of the Department's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) related Websites. The Act requires unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability so that taxpayers know where their tax dollars are being spent. In response to that requirement, DOT deployed multiple Websites to collect and disseminate ARRA related information to the public.

While the Department is taking advantage of Web-based technologies to provide required transparency information, it inevitably inherits the security risks associated with the Internet Protocol (IP)-based technologies. Vulnerable Websites may allow intruders to deface, alter or remove information, damaging Department's ability to timely and accurately collect and report ARRA-related information to the taxpayers.

The objectives of this audit are to determine if (1) DOT's recovery Websites and database systems are properly configured to minimize the risk of cyber attacks, and (2) access to recovery Websites and database systems are adequately controlled to ensure accountability and integrity of ARRA data.

The audit will be conducted at DOT Headquarters in Washington, D.C and applicable contractor facilities hosting Websites. We will contact your audit liaison to establish an entrance conference in order to discuss the audit. The Program Director for this audit is Dr. Ping Sun. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 366-1496 or Dr. Sun at (202) 366-1478.

cc: Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs/CFO  
CIO Council Members  
Martin Gertel, M-1