

Geoff Schweller <g***@gmail.com>
To: dot.comments@dot.gov**

Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 4:29 PM

Hello,

My name is Geoff Schweller and I am a contributing editor at Front Line Whistleblower News (my author page for the site can be seen here:

<https://www.whistleblowersblog.org/author/geoffschweller/>). I am currently working on a piece on the Motor Vehicle Safety Whistleblower Act. As far as I can tell, the Department of Transportation has not posted rules for a whistleblower program as stipulated by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act. Would you please answer the following questions about this issue? If not, could you point me towards the individual who could?

Is the Department of Transportation in violation of the law by failing to implement whistleblower rules?

Who is responsible for this failure?

What is the reason the rules have been delayed?

Why have you not modeled your program on the highly successful SEC program? Wouldn't that have been fairly easy?

When are proposed rules going to be offered?

How much money has been paid to whistleblowers under the law?

Thank you for your time,

Geoff Schweller
Contributing Editor
Front Line Whistleblower News

Sanchez, Lucia (NHTSA) <***@dot.gov>
To: "geoffschweller@gmail.com" <g*****@gmail.com>
Cc: NHTSA media <NHTSAmmedia@dot.gov>**

Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 8:27 AM

Geoff,

Please see our response.

Attributable to NHTSA:

NHTSA is currently working on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for regulations to meet the FAST Act requirements. We note that neither the whistleblower protection nor award provisions are contingent on a rule being in place. Whistleblowers may submit information to the Agency, and whistleblowers are afforded the protections contained in 49 USC § 30172(f). Furthermore, a whistleblower may receive an award prior to the promulgation of the regulations. We have received information and claims pursuant to the statute, which we are actively considering.

Lucia Sanchez

Geoff Schweller <g***@gmail.com>**
To: "Sanchez, Lucia (NHTSA)" <l***@dot.gov>**

Tue, Sep 8, 2020 at 11:53 AM

Lucia,

Thank you for the response. The statement does not answer some of my questions, however, and I'm hoping to better understand the current status of the whistleblower program. Would you be able to answer the following questions:

Is the Department of Transportation in violation of the law by failing to implement whistleblower rules?

What is the reason the rules have been delayed?

When will the whistleblower rules be made public?

What is the process for submitting whistleblower awards claims currently?

Have any whistleblower awards been granted? And if so, how many and for how much?

I appreciate your time. I am looking to publish an article in order to publicize the whistleblower program offered by the Department of Transportation. I am concerned by the delay in the rules, however.

Thank you,

Geoff Schweller