

USDOT Web Design System

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Purpose

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Web Design System captures the web standards for DOT Drupal Content Management System (CMS) websites and outlines the design guidelines for the DOT's ecosystem of websites. The web standards support modern web development and usability practices and apply stringent requirements for conformance to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998, which ensures access for people with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities, as well as Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 AA standards. This guide serves as documentation for the identity, colors, typography, iconography, graphics, layouts, and components shared across the Transportation.gov Operating Administration (OA) sites, and other sites.

OA sites include:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD)
- Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC)

Other sites include:

- Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- Build America
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA)

Design Principles

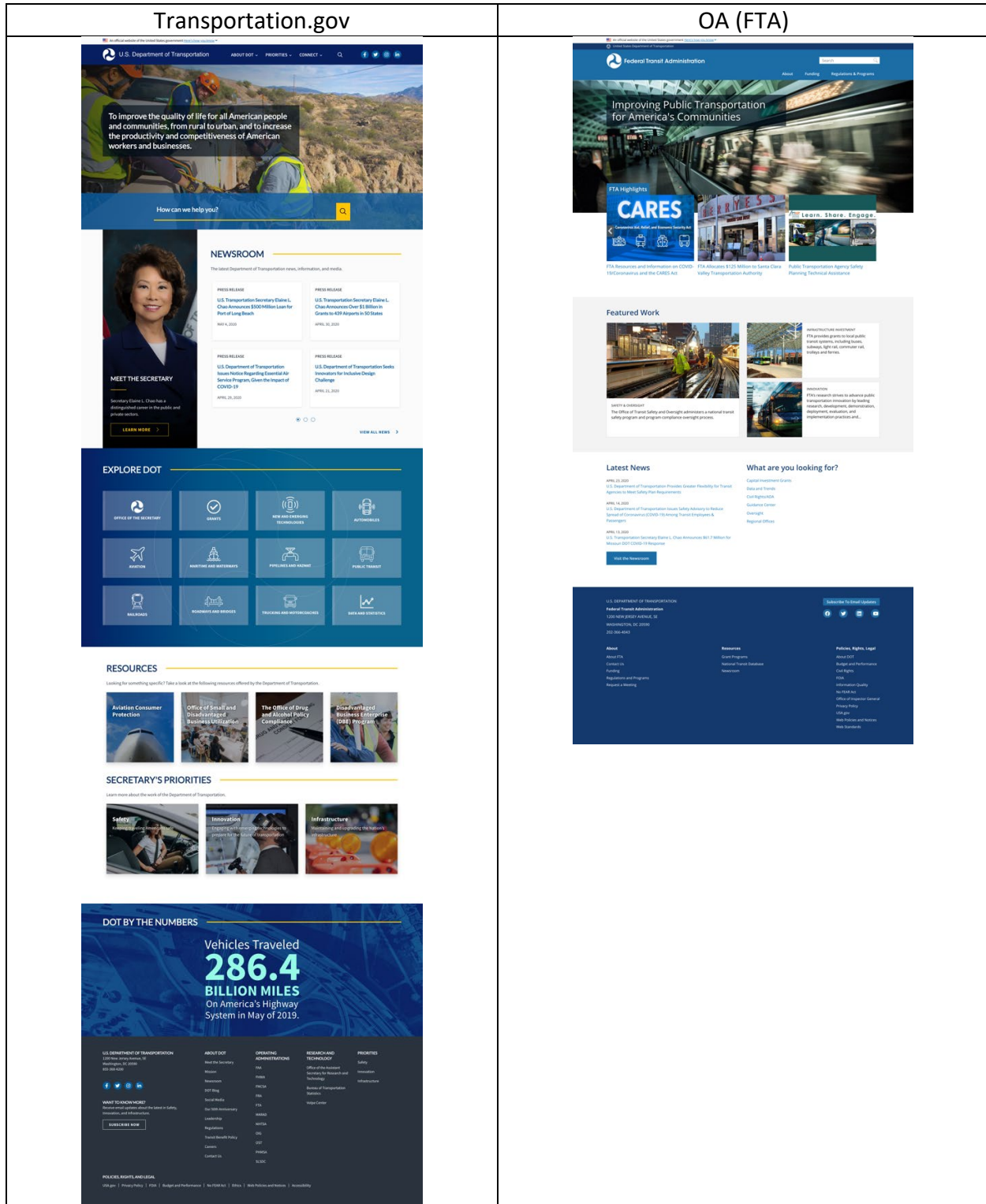
The USDOT Web Design System adheres to the guidance provided by the [21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act \(IDEA\)](#), which requires public-facing websites to be accessible, follow a consistent design, emphasize content, be searchable, be secure, be user and civic-centric, be customizable, and be mobile-friendly. The design system also aligns with the principles and goals of the [U.S. Web Design System \(USWDS\)](#) by starting with real user needs, earning trust, embracing accessibility, promoting reusability, and listening to user feedback.

Page Layouts

Page layouts and templates are built using reusable USDOT Web Design System components.

Home Page

The home page informs visitors about agency priorities and news. Home pages contain jumbotron hero components, carousels, and news components.



Landing Page

Transportation.gov

Transportation.gov has a template for “Meet the Secretary” that contains a hero section, side navigation, content area, and a “Secretary’s Priorities” component, and a template for OA pages that contain a hero section, featured quote, “Programs and Projects” block, “Other Associated Agencies” list, and a “Resources” component.

Meet the Secretary



Meet the Secretary
The Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao, is the head of the U.S. Department of Transportation and a member of the President's Cabinet. The Secretary oversees the operating administrations of DOT and coordinates policies to provide an efficient and economical national transportation system.

Meet the Secretary
Speeches
Blog
Press Releases

Secretary Elaine Chao

U.S. Secretary of Transportation

Secretary Elaine Chao is currently the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. This is her second cabinet position. She served as U.S. Secretary of Labor from 2001 to January 2003, and is the first Asian American woman to be appointed to the President's Cabinet in American history.

Secretary Chao comes to the U.S. Department of Transportation with extensive experience in the transportation sector. Early in her career, she specialized in transportation financing in the private sector. She began her executive career in public service working on transportation and trade issues at the White House. She then served as Deputy Maritime Administrator, U.S. Department of Transportation, Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, and Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation. As U.S. Secretary of Transportation, she is a strong advocate for safety, and the importance of infrastructure and innovation in our nation's economic competitiveness and growth.

Secretary Chao has a distinguished career in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. An immigrant who arrived in America at the age of eight speaking no English, she received her citizenship at the age of 18. Her experience transcending a new country has motivated her to devote much of her professional life to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to build better lives for themselves and their families. As U.S. Secretary of Labor, she focused on increasing the competitiveness of America's workforce in a global economy, promoted job creation, and achieved record in workplace safety and health.

Prior to the Department of Labor, Secretary Chao was President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of America, where she received public trust and confidence in one of America's premier institutions of private charitable giving, after it had been tarnished by financial mismanagement and abuse. Secretary Chao also served as Director of the Peace Corps, where she established the first program in the Baltic nations and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Secretary Chao earned her MBA from the Harvard Business School and an economics degree from Mount Holyoke College. Honored for her extensive record of accomplishments and public service, she is the recipient of 27 honorary doctorate degrees.

Secretary Chao is a resident of Jefferson County, Kentucky. Prior to her appointment as Secretary of Transportation, she was a distinguished fellow at multiple institutes. She is the widow of her longtime husband to be, James S.C. Chao, and the late Mr. Ruth Wai-kin Chao.

Secretary Elaine Chao on Social Media
[Follow Secretary Elaine Chao on Twitter](#) [Follow Secretary Elaine Chao on Facebook](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

How many cabinet positions has Secretary Elaine Chao held?
Two, this is her second cabinet position. She served as U.S. Secretary of Labor from 2001-Joinuary 2003.

What are the Secretary's top three priorities?
Our efforts are guided by three priorities. The first is safety, which is always the top priority in building and refurbishing our country's critical infrastructure. And the third priority is preparing for the future by engaging with emerging technologies to address legitimate public concerns about safety, security, and privacy, without hampering innovation.

When did the Secretary Elaine Chao become a United States citizen?
She received her citizenship at the age of 18.

What other transportation record-sets has Secretary Elaine Chao filled within the United States Government?
She began her executive career in public service working on transportation and trade issues at the White House. She then served as Deputy Maritime Administrator, U.S. Department of Transportation, Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, and Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Where can I find copies of the Secretary's speeches?
You can find a catalog of all of the Secretary's speeches on the Department of Transportation Website.

SECRETARY'S PRIORITIES

Learn more about the work of the Department of Transportation.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

400 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
202-365-6700

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
Receive our newsletter about the latest in safety, innovation, and infrastructure.

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

POLICY, RIGHTS, AND LEGAL

DOT.gov | Privacy Policy | FOIA | Budget and Performance | No BIFAN Act | Ethics | Web Policies and Notices | Accessibility

OA



Innovation
Guiding the country into the future of transportation

“ We need to engage with emerging technologies to address legitimate public concerns about safety, security, and privacy, without hampering innovation. ”
—Secretary Elaine S. Chao

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS





Other Associated Agencies

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Provides financial and technical assistance to local public transit systems, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, trolleys and ferries.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Provides financial and technical assistance to local public transit systems, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, trolleys and ferries.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Responsible for keeping people safe on America's roadways.

Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center (THRC)
The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) FHRC program strives to generate new solutions, build more effective partnerships, and provide better information and tools for decision making, which will enable the Nation to enhance and make the best investments in the U.S. transportation system.

RESOURCES

Looking for something specific? Take a look at the following resources offered by the Department of Transportation.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

400 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
202-365-6700

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
Receive our newsletter about the latest in safety, innovation, and infrastructure.

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

POLICY, RIGHTS, AND LEGAL

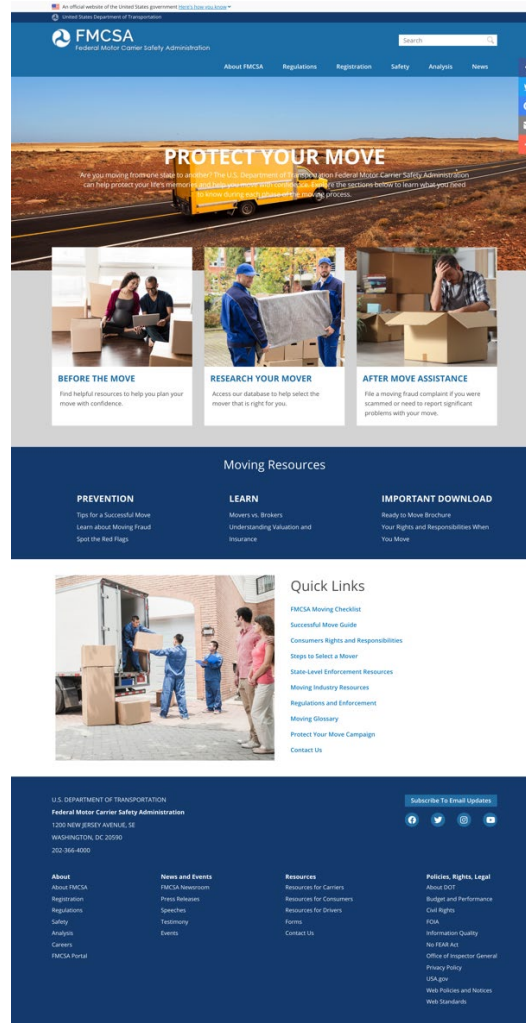
DOT.gov | Privacy Policy | FOIA | Budget and Performance | No BIFAN Act | Ethics | Web Policies and Notices | Accessibility

5

Operating Administration Sites

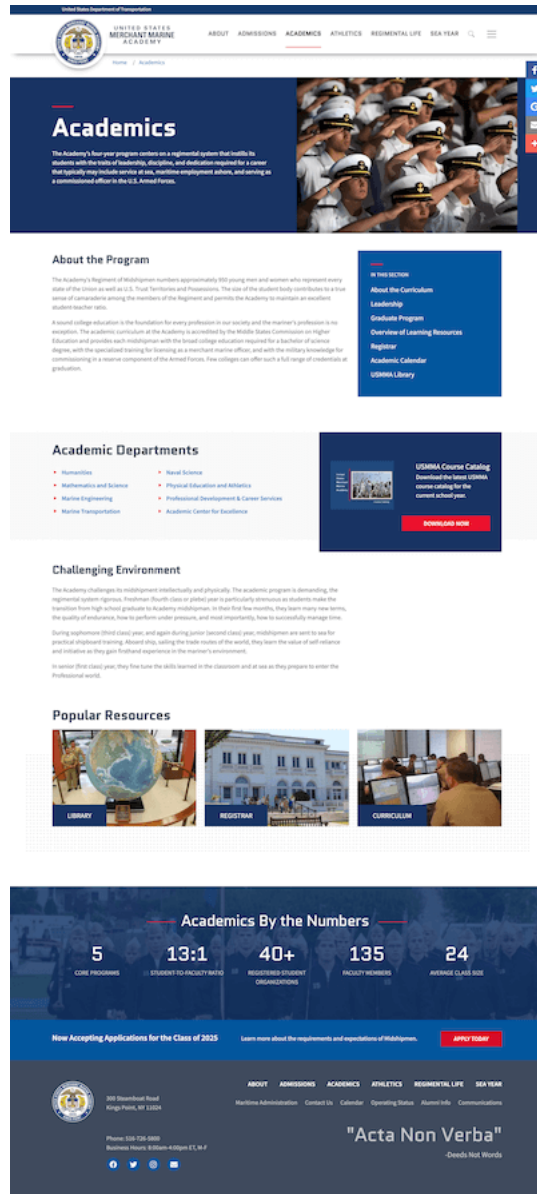
FMCSA

The Landing Page for FMCSA contains a hero section with three cards, a callout section (“Moving Resources” in the example below), and a “Quick Links” list.



USMMA

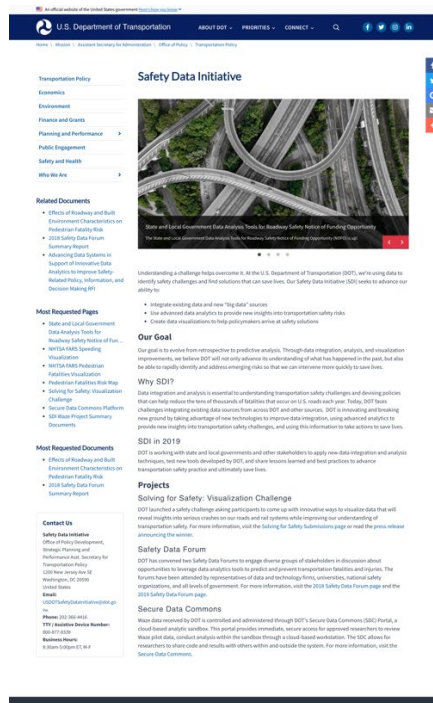
USMMA utilizes a different landing page template because it uses a .edu domain. The Landing Page uses a single-column format and includes a callout section at the top, body with a right-hand “In This Section” sub navigation, link list (“Academic Catalog” below), call-to-action box (“USMMA Course Catalog” below), “Popular Resources” block, and “Academics by the Numbers” section.



Lite Landing Page

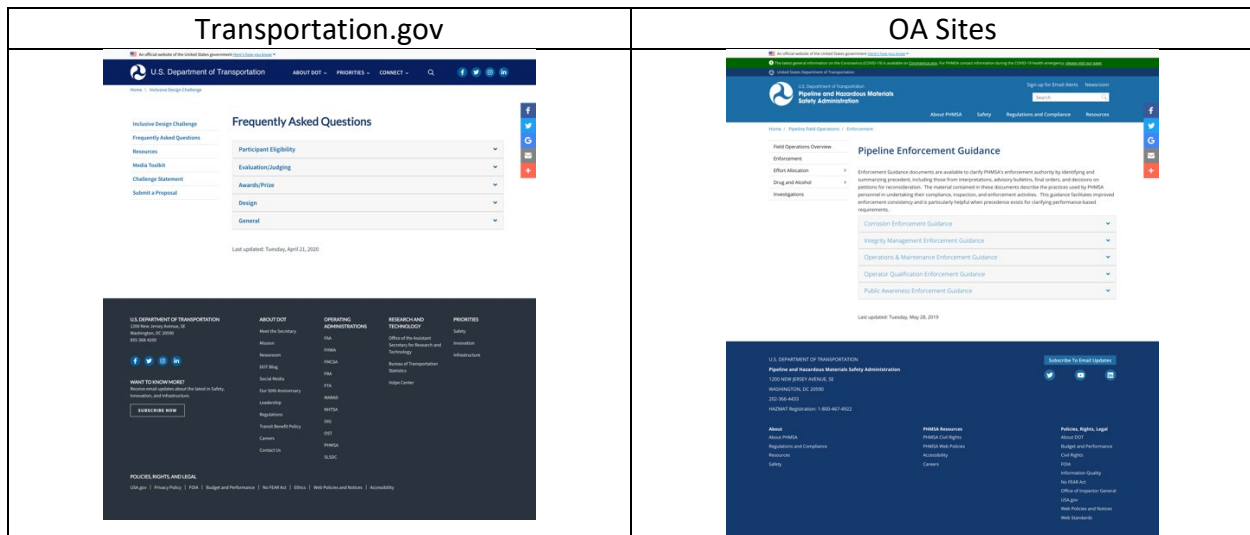
The Lite Landing page template is shared across all sites and includes the following features:

- Slideshow at the top of the page
- “Related Documents” list in left-hand column
- “Most Requested Pages” list in left-hand column
- “Most Requested Documents” list in left-hand column
- “Contact Us” block in left-hand column



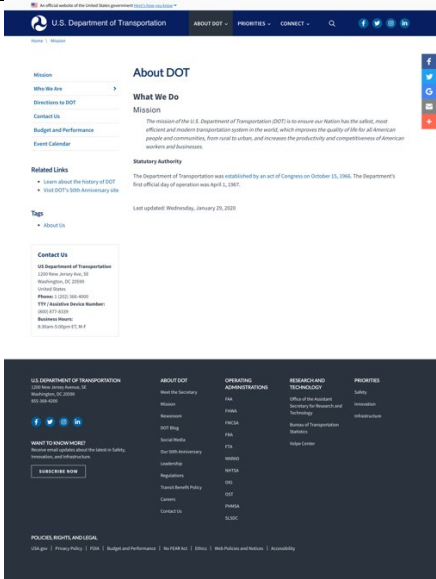
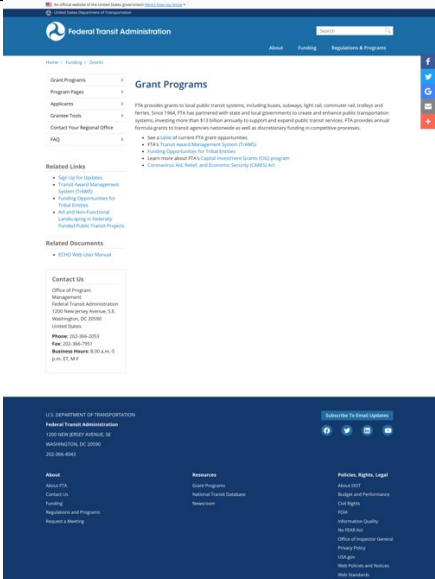
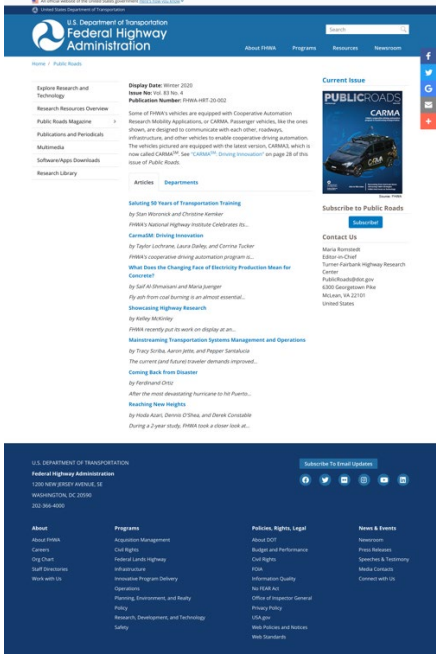
Advanced Article

The Advanced Article template uses a two-column format and includes an optional accordion component.



Article

The article template is designed to use a two-column layout by default. It can also accommodate three-column layouts.

Two-Column (Transportation.gov)	Two-Column (OA Sites)
	
Three-Column (OA Sites)	
	

Components

Components are built using reusable USDOT Web Design System elements.

Global

The following components are used and available across all sites.

Alert

An alert keeps users informed of important and sometimes time-sensitive changes. The global alert is activated on all pages, except for Transportation.gov home page, which uses the larger version below.

Global Alert

 The latest general information on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is available on [Coronavirus.gov](#). For USDOT specific COVID-19 resources, [please visit our page](#).

Transportation.gov Home Page Alert

COVID-19 UPDATES

The latest general information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is available on [Coronavirus.gov](#).
For USDOT-specific COVID-19 resources, [please visit our page](#).

[VIEW LATEST UPDATES >](#)

USA Banner

The banner identifies your site as an official website of the United States government and helps visitors understand how to tell that it is official. It follows the specifications from the U.S. Web Design System and is used across all USDOT websites except USMMA.edu.

 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▼

DOT Banner

The banner identifies your site as an official website of the United States Department of Transportation and helps visitors understand how to tell that it is official. It is used across all sites except Transportation.gov.

 United States Department of Transportation

Accordion

An accordion is a list of headers that hide or reveal additional content when selected.

Closed	Open
<div>Collapsible Label 1</div> <div>Collapsible Label 2</div> <div>Collapsible Label 3</div> <div>Collapsible Label 4</div>	<div> <div>Collapsible Label 1</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam. • Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum. • Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo. </div> <div>Collapsible Label 2</div> <div>Collapsible Label 3</div> <div>Collapsible Label 4</div>

Button

Buttons draw attention to important actions. The USDOT Web Design System uses a standard design for buttons across all sites with some minor exceptions, including buttons used on Build America and USMMA.

Main Button Style	Build America and USMMA Button Style
<div>MORE NEWS</div>	<div>VIEW NEWSROOM</div>


Card

Cards are flexible content containers that can include images, links, and text.

Transportation.gov



Below are some example cards with components used on Transportation.gov.

<div> <div>PRESS RELEASE</div> <div>200 Pledges in 100 Days: Transportation Industry DOUBLES Secretary Chao's Call to "Put the Brakes on Human Trafficking"</div> <div>MAY 7, 2020</div> </div>	<div>  <div>Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES)</div> </div>	<div> <div>Infrastructure</div> <div>Maintaining and upgrading the Nation's infrastructure</div>  </div>
---	---	---

 <p>Aviation Consumer Protection</p>		
--	--	--

Operating Administration Sites

Below are some example cards with components used on OA sites.

 <p>Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Get the latest on FMCSA CDL Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse coming in January 2020</p>	 <p>INFRASTRUCTURE Improving the Nation's Roads and Bridges Providing leadership, technical expertise and program assistance to help sustain America's mobility</p>	 <p>RESEARCH Research and Technology Programs Finding new solutions to enhance highway safety and efficiency</p>
--	--	---

Contact Block

The contact block is placed in the left-side column and under the side navigation.

<p>Contact Us</p> <p>US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590 United States Phone: 1 (202) 366-4000 TTY / Assistive Device Number: (800) 877-8339 Business Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm ET, M-F</p>
--

Related Content Block

The related content block is placed in the left-side column and under the side navigation.

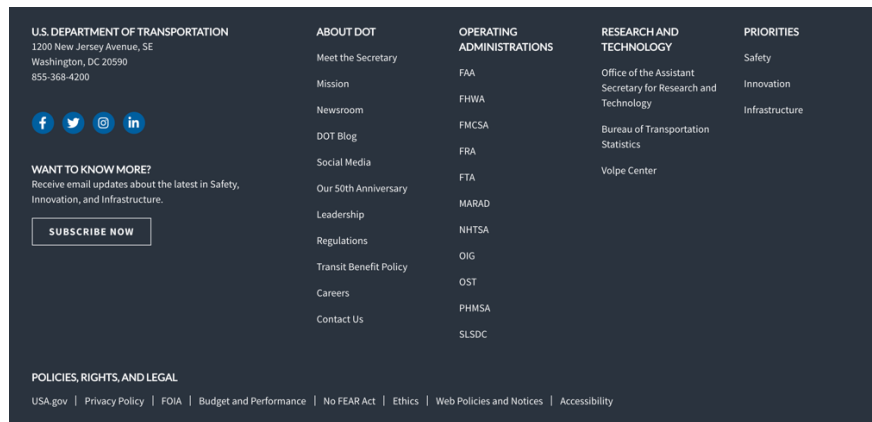
Transportation.gov	OA Sites
<p>Related Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about the history of DOT • Visit DOT's 50th Anniversary site 	<p>Related Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the National Transit Database and Transit in the United States • Sign Up for Updates

Footer

The footer assists site visitors with finding what they need, from the bottom of every page.

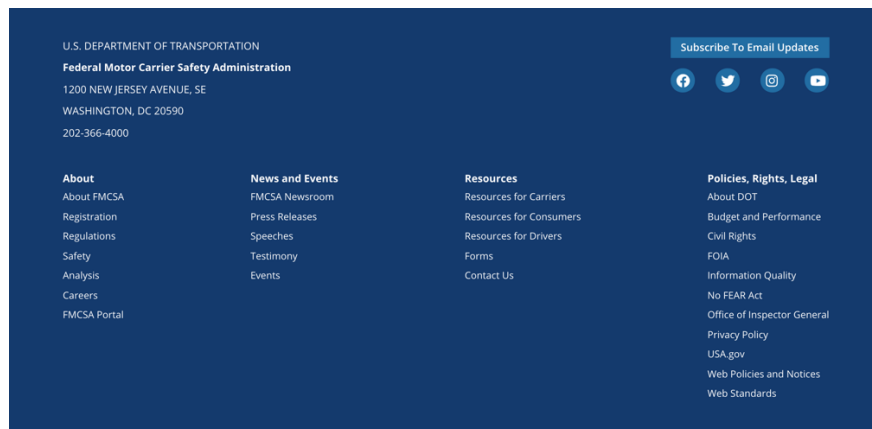
Transportation.gov

The Transportation.gov footer contains five columns.



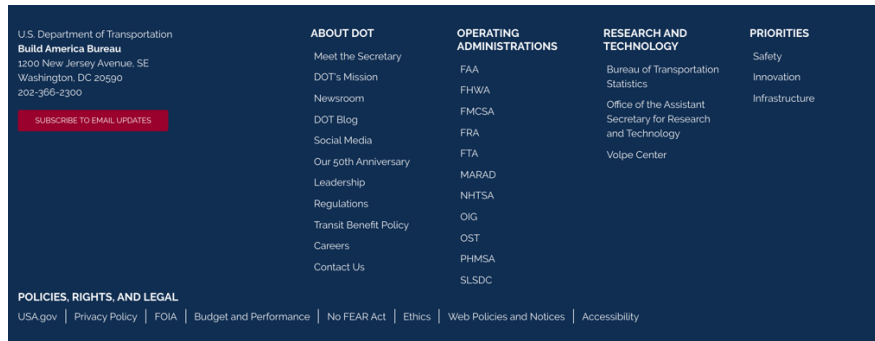
Operating Administration Sites

OA site footer is flexible and can utilize up to five columns.



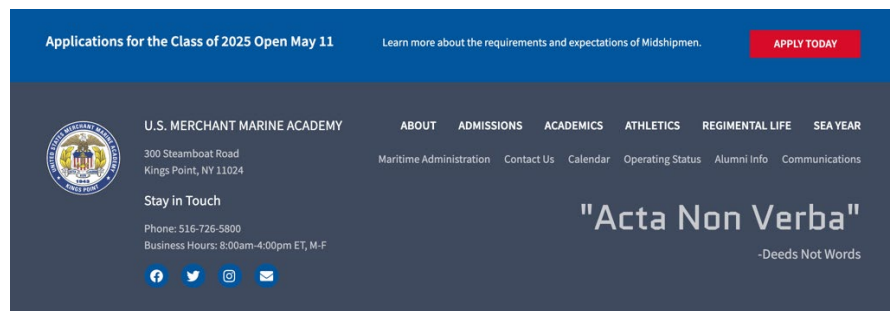
Build America

The Build America footer follows the main Transportation.gov footer layout.



USMMA

The USMMA footer uses a two-column format and includes an additional section at the top to promote student applications.



Form Controls

The design system uses base form control elements provided by the Twitter Bootstrap framework. This includes text inputs, select lists, checkboxes, and radio buttons. Please refer to [Bootstrap's Forms documentation](#) for more details.

Grid

The USDOT Web Design System utilizes Twitter Bootstrap's flexible grid system to structure web page and content layout for all sites. The grid is mobile-first, accessible on all major browsers, and based on a twelve-column system.

1 of 2	2 of 2	
1 of 3	2 of 3	3 of 3

Header

The header helps users identify where they are and provides a quick, organized way to reach the main sections of the website. The USDOT and OA headers include branding to identify the site, horizontal navigation, and site search.

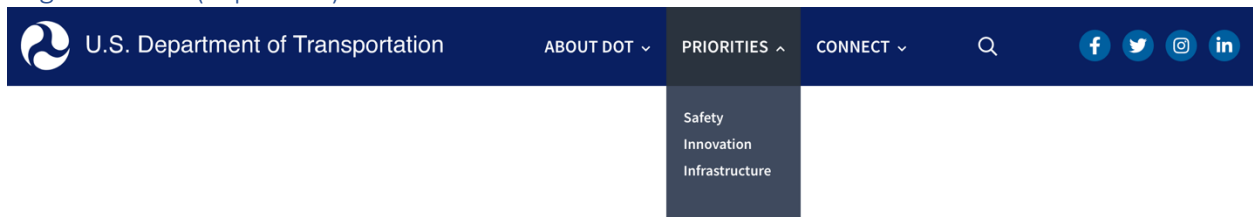
Transportation.gov Header

The Transportation.gov header includes a logo, navigation, site search tool, and social media links. The navigation includes a regular menu and a mega menu.

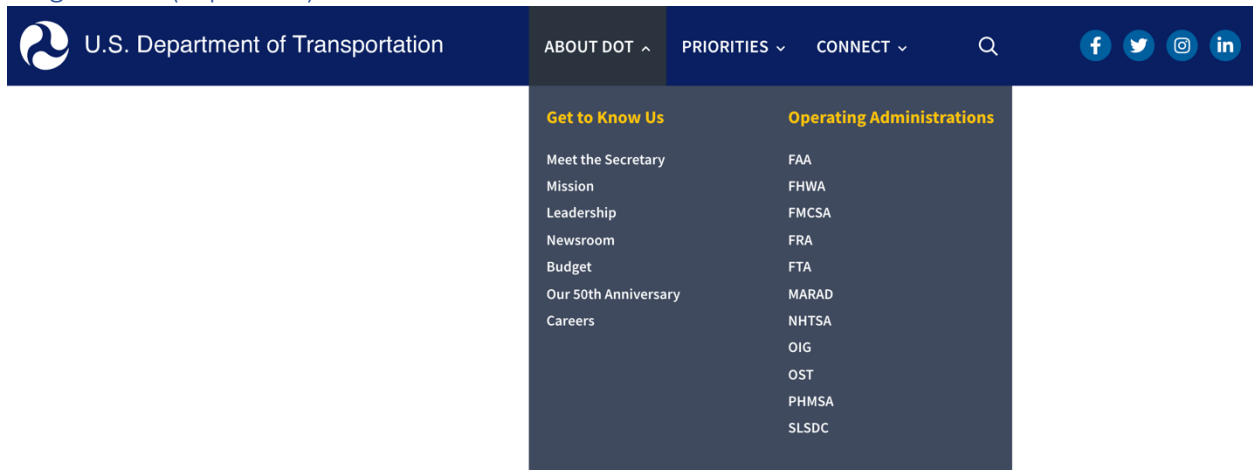
Default



Regular Menu (Expanded)



Mega Menu (Expanded)



Operating Administration Header

The OA header includes a logo, navigation, and site search tool. The navigation includes a regular menu and a mega menu.

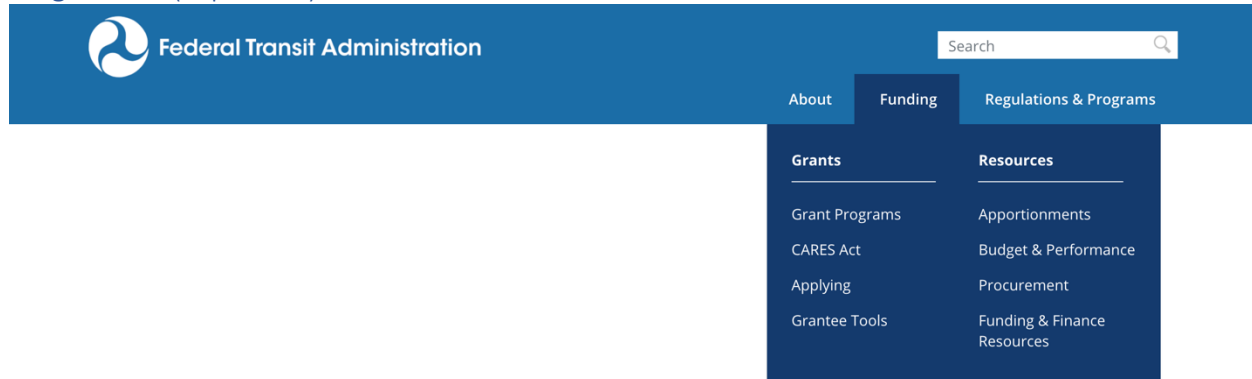
Default



Regular Menu (Expanded)



Mega Menu (Expanded)



Build America Header

The Build America header includes a logo, navigation, site search tool, and “Today’s Interest Rate” block. The navigation includes a regular menu.

Default



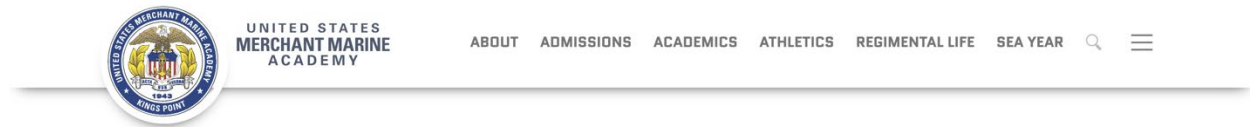
Expanded



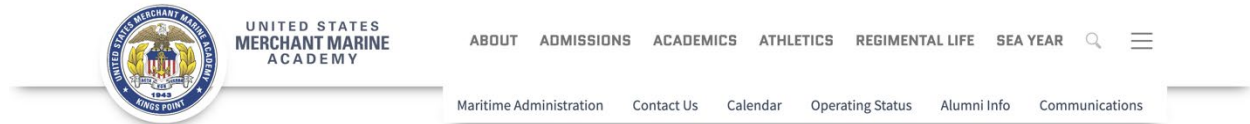
USMMA Header

The USMMA header contains the USMMA crest, text logo, links, site search tool, and a sub navigation.

Default



Sub navigation (Expanded)



Hero

The USDOT Web Design System is flexible and supports several implementations for the home page hero components.

General Specifications

Hero image dimensions: 2600px x 1114px

Transportation.gov hero text: 32px Lato 700 white (Hex value #FFFFFF)

OA hero text: 41.5px Open Sans white (Hex value #FFFFFF)

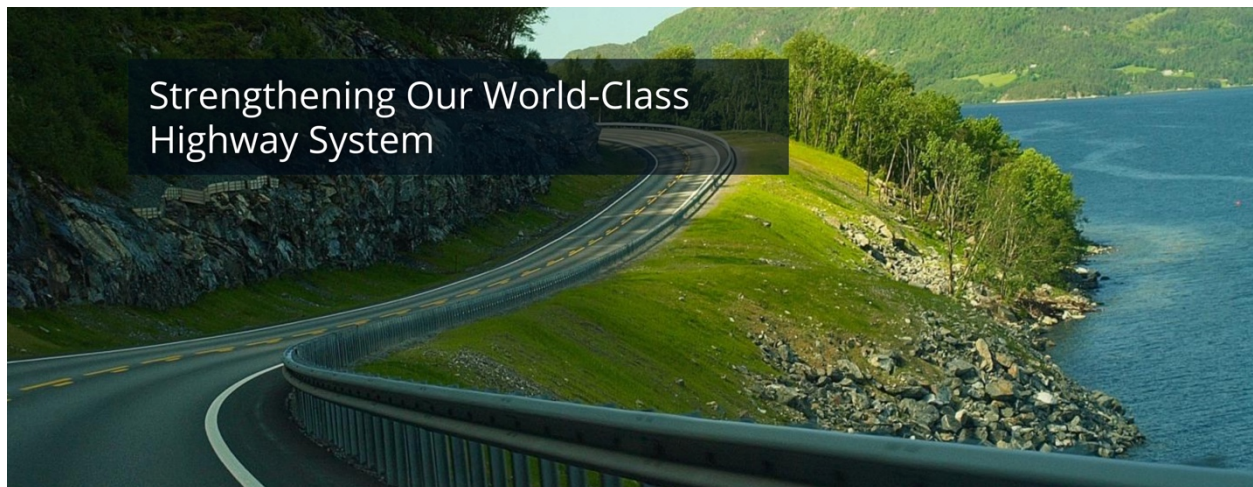
Transportation.gov Hero

Transportation.gov contains a full-bleed background image, which extends from one edge of the browser window to the other, with large text on an opaque overlay, as well as a site search block.



FHWA Hero

FHWA utilizes a full-bleed background image and large text with an opaque overlay to provide greater accessibility.



FMCSA Hero

FMCSA utilizes a full-bleed background image with large text and an opaque overlay, and includes a news block component and a “FMCSA Highlights” carousel block with three or more promoted items.



Improving the Safety of Commercial Motor Vehicles

Latest News

April 29, 2020
FMCSA Distribution of Protective Masks for Truck Drivers

April 29, 2020
U.S. Department of Transportation Assists in Distributing One Million...

March 18, 2020
US Department of Transportation Expands National Emergency Declaration for...

[Visit the Newsroom](#)

FMCSA Highlights



Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

Get the latest on FMCSA CDL Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse coming in January 2020

FMCSA Nationwide EMERGENCY DECLARATION

FMCSA Emergency Declaration

Learn more about FMCSA's Emergency Declaration for CMVs delivering relief in response to the coronavirus outbreak



Our Roads, Our Safety

Learn more about FMCSA's public awareness efforts to reduce crashes with large trucks and buses

FRA Hero

FRA utilizes a full-bleed background image with large text and an opaque overlay, and includes a carousel block with three or more promoted items.



Enabling the Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Movement of People and Goods

Featured Stories



[Submit Your Proposals for Funding to Conduct Railroad Research](#)



[\(COVID-19\) Information from the FRA](#)



[Animated Grade Crossing Safety & Trespass Prevention Social Media](#)

FTA Hero

FTA utilizes a full-bleed background image with large text and an opaque overlay, and includes a carousel block with three or more promoted items.



Improving Public Transportation
for America's Communities

FTA Highlights

CARES
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

Learn. Share. Engage.

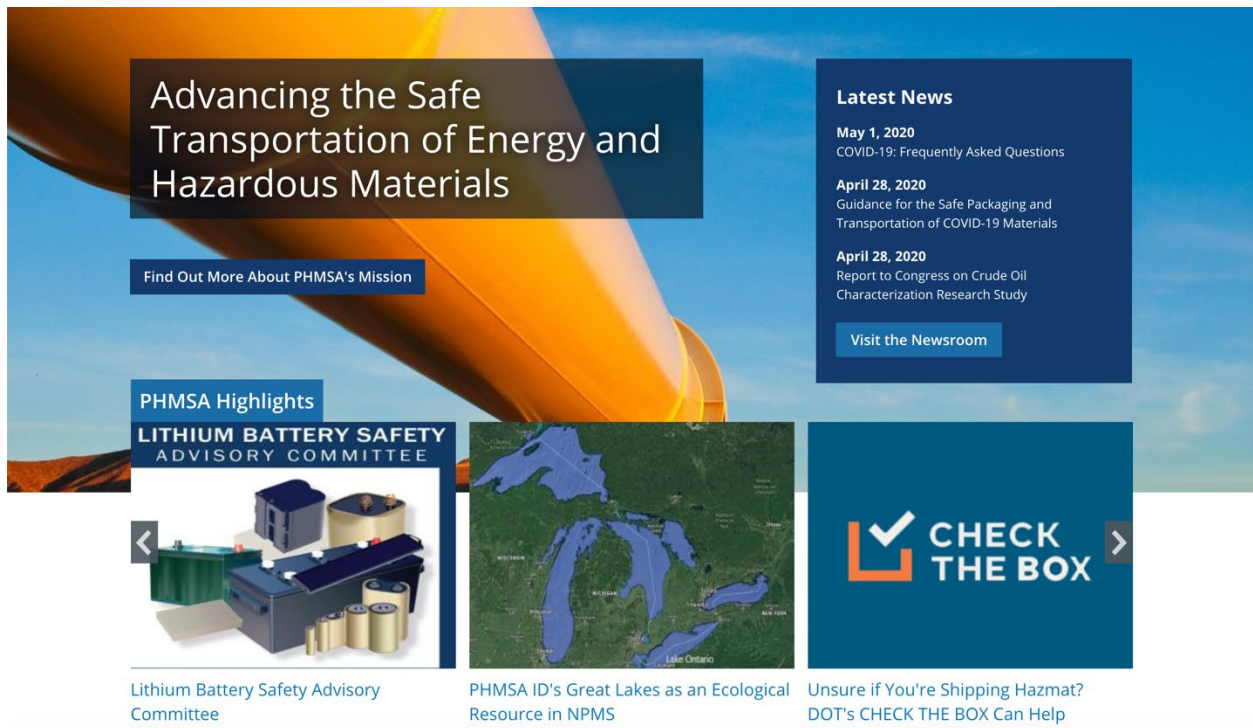
FTA Resources and Information on COVID-19/Coronavirus and the CARES Act

FTA Allocates \$125 Million to Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Public Transportation Agency Safety Planning Technical Assistance

PHMSA Hero

PHMSA utilizes a full-bleed background image with large text over an opaque overlay, a call-to-action button, a news block component, and a carousel block with three or more promoted items.



Advancing the Safe Transportation of Energy and Hazardous Materials

[Find Out More About PHMSA's Mission](#)

Latest News

May 1, 2020
COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions

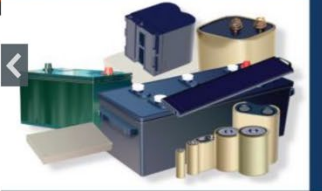
April 28, 2020
Guidance for the Safe Packaging and Transportation of COVID-19 Materials

April 28, 2020
Report to Congress on Crude Oil Characterization Research Study


[Visit the Newsroom](#)

PHMSA Highlights


LITHIUM BATTERY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Lithium Battery Safety Advisory Committee



PHMSA ID's Great Lakes as an Ecological Resource in NPMS



Unsure if You're Shipping Hazmat? DOT's CHECK THE BOX Can Help

Seaway Hero

Seaway utilizes a full-bleed background image with large text and an opaque overlay, and a "Highlights" block with three promoted items.



Experience the Saint Lawrence Seaway

Highlights



The Seaway Today
Learn about who we are & what we do



Maritime Community Resources
See why the Seaway is important



History of the Seaway
Discover why the Seaway is a unique DOT presence

Build America

Build America utilizes a full-bleed background image with large text, and a “Working with the Build America Bureau” block.



Icons

Icons communicate meaning in a graphical user interface. The USDOT Web Design System uses open source [Font Awesome](#) icons on the project. If you need additional icons, refer to the implementation instructions at Font Awesome’s website.

Search

Search allows users to search for specific content if they know what search terms to use or can’t find desired content in the main navigation. Each site contains a search widget in the header component that searches content for that site only.

Side Navigation

The USDOT Web Design System uses a two-level vertical navigation positioned in a left-hand column as is shown below.

Single Level	Two Levels
--------------	------------

Parent Link Parent Link > Parent Link Parent Link	Parent Link Parent Link ▼ Child Link Child Link Child Link Parent Link Parent Link
--	--

Table

Tables show tabular data in columns and rows. Tables can contain a header row, a header column, or both, depending on the data being presented. Table headers are offset with a grey background and bold text.

Date	Mode	Type	Resource
May 05, 2020	FAA	Guidance	Additional aircraft-overflow-parking guidance for airport operators
May 02, 2020	PHMSA	FAQ	COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions
April 30, 2020	FAA	Guidance	FAA Grants Exemption for Certain Air Ambulance Personnel
April 30, 2020	NHTSA	Guidance	Administrative Flexibilities for 911 Grant Program
April 29, 2020	FAA	Final Rule	Relief for Certain Persons and Operations during the COVID-19 Outbreak
April 28, 2020	PHMSA	Guidance	Safe Packaging and Transportation of COVID-19 Materials
April 22, 2020	PHMSA	Guidance	Notice of Enforcement Discretion related to the compliance with certain new gas pipeline safety regulations.

Tag

Tags draw attention to categorized content elements and are positioned in the left-hand column under the sub-navigation.

Transportation.gov	OA Sites
Tags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About Us 	Tags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19

Typography

Following the U.S. Web Design System, the USDOT Web Design System provides clear and consistent headings, highly legible body paragraphs, clear labels, and easy-to-use input fields. When text is overlaid on a background or image, the text must have enough of a color contrast in order to be readable. The USDOT Web Design System adheres to WCAG 2.0 Level AA standards for color contrast with a minimum of 3.1 contrast ratio for large text and 4.5.1 contrast ratio for regular text. (Large text is defined as 18pt and larger or 14pt and bold.) When

choosing a background image, please choose graphics that will provide foreground text with a suitable contrast. The [WebAIM Color Contrast Checker](#) is a useful tool to measure the contrast ratio.

Fonts

Transportation.gov

Source Sans Pro serves as the base font transportation.gov. Source Sans Pro is a sans serif typeface designed to work well in user interfaces. It consists of a variety of weights including light, regular, semi bold, bold, and extrabold, which allows for a wide range of type treatments and hierarchies within a page while still maintaining a unified look and feel.

Operating Administration Sites

Open Sans serves as the base font for OA sites. The full Open Sans type family consists of a variety of weights including light, regular, semi bold, bold, and extrabold, which allows for a wide range of type treatments and hierarchies within a page while still maintaining a unified look and feel.

For WCAG 2.0 AA standards, large text is defined as text that is 18pt and larger, or 14pt and larger if it is bold. The color contrast standard for large text is a foreground: background color contrast ratio of at least 3:1. Regular text must have a foreground: background color contrast ratio of contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1. In other words, the smaller the text, the greater the color the contrast must be in order to pass WCAG 2.0 standards.

Headers

The USDOT Web Design System utilizes semantic HTML, which includes <main>, <article>, <section>, <aside>, <header>, <navigation>, and <footer> elements. Each element should begin with and contain one <h1> header tag, and additional header tags should follow a structured and logical order. Content authored in the Content Management System, however, should use <h2> tags and below; (<h3>, <h4>, etc.) and should not contain <h1> tags. The <h1> tag is autogenerated for the page title when content is authored.

All HTML headings, <h1> through <h6>, are available as described below.

Transportation.gov	OA Sites
H1: 36px Lato Bold #133466 H2: 28px Source Sans Pro 700 #343F4E H3: 24px Source Sans Pro #343F4E H4: 22px Source Sans Pro 500 #3F4A5D H5: 20px Source Sans Pro 500 #3F4A5D H6: 18px Source Sans Pro 500 #3F4A5D	H1: 30px Open Sans 600 #194178 H2: 22.5px Open Sans 700 #72655F H3: 20px Open Sans 700 #194178 H4: 19px Open Sans 700 #72655F H5: 16px Open Sans 500 #212519 H6: 14px Open Sans 500 #72655F
Build America	USMMA
H1: 32px Raleway 700 #0D5384 H2: 29px Raleway 400 #212529	H1: 50px Quantico Bold #173363 H2: 30px Quantico Bold #3F4A5D

H3: 21px Raleway 700 #212529	H3: 26px Quantico Bold #3F4A5D
H4: 18px Raleway 700 #212529	H4: 22px Quantico Bold #3F4A5D
H5: 18px Raleway 400 #212529	H5: 20px Quantico Bold #3F4A5D
H6: 16px Raleway 400 #212529	H6: 18px Quantico Bold #3F4A5D

Inline Elements

This is a paragraph.

This is a [text link](#).

Strong is used to indicate strong importance.

This text has added emphasis using the tag.

The u element is text with an unarticulated, though explicitly rendered, non-textual annotation. The <u> element should rarely, if ever, be used; links should be the only underlined text for accessibility purposes.

~~This text~~ is deleted and This text is inserted.

This text has a strikethrough.

Superscript[®]

Subscript for things like H₂O.

This small text is small for fine print, etc.

Lists

- Unordered List

1. Ordered List