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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meet the Secretary</th>
<th>OA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Meet the Secretary template" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="OA template" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Secretary Elaine Chao**

**U.S. Secretary of Transportation**

*Positioned as the leader of the Department of Transportation, the Secretary of Transportation plays a critical role in shaping the nation’s transportation policies and programs.*

**Secretary’s Priorities**

- **Surface Transportation**
  - **Amtrak**
  - **Intermodal Freight**
- **Air Transportation**
  - **Aviation Safety**
  - **Facilitate Diversion**
- **Research and Development**
- **Transportation Security**

**Programs and Projects**

- **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**
- **NETT**
- **Other Relevant Projects**

**Other Associated Agencies**

- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)**
- **Research and Development**

**Resources**

- [Link to Additional Resources](#)
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.
The article template is designed to use a two-column layout by default. It can also accommodate three-column layouts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two-Column (Transportation.gov)</th>
<th>Two-Column (OA Sites)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Transportation.gov" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="OA Sites" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Three-Column (OA Sites)</th>
<th>Three-Column (OA Sites)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="OA Sites" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="OA Sites" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Closed</th>
<th>Open</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Collapsible Label 1 | Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris. Exce
| Collapsible Label 2 | Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris. Exce
| Collapsible Label 3 | Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris. Exce
| Collapsible Label 4 | Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris. Exce

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Button Style</th>
<th>Build America and USMMA Button Style</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MORE NEWS</td>
<td>VIEW NEWSROOM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation.gov</th>
<th>OA Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related Links</strong></td>
<td><strong>Related Links</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Learn about the history of DOT</td>
<td>- History of the National Transit Database and Transit in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Visit DOT’s 50th Anniversary site</td>
<td>- Sign Up for Updates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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.
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.
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.
**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.
**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.
**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.

**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.
Seaway Hero
Seaway utilizes a full-bleed background image with large text and an opaque overlay, and a “Highlights” block with three promoted items.
**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](https://fontawesome.com) 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Level</th>
<th>Two Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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

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

Transportation.gov

- About Us

OA Sites

- 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Transportation.gov</strong></th>
<th><strong>OA Sites</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H1: 36px Lato Bold #133466</td>
<td></td>
<td>H1: 30px Open Sans 600 #194178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2: 28px Source Sans Pro 700 #343F4E</td>
<td>H2: 22.5px Open Sans 700 #72655F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3: 24px Source Sans Pro #343F4E</td>
<td>H3: 20px Open Sans 700 #194178</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H4: 22px Source Sans Pro 500 #3F4A5D</td>
<td>H4: 19px Open Sans 700 #72655F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H5: 20px Source Sans Pro 500 #3F4A5D</td>
<td>H5: 16px Open Sans 500 #212519</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H6: 18px Source Sans Pro 500 #3F4A5D</td>
<td>H6: 14px Open Sans 500 #72655F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Build America</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>USMMA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1: 32px Raleway 700 #0D5384</td>
<td>H1: 50px Quantico Bold #173363</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2: 29px Raleway 400 #212529</td>
<td>H2: 30px Quantico Bold #3F4A5D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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 `<em>` 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 $\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

This small text is small for fine print, etc.

**Lists**

- Unordered List

  1. Ordered List