§ 1.22 Structure.

(a) Secretary and Deputy Secretary. The Secretary and Deputy Secretary are assisted by the following, all of which report directly to the Secretary: The Under Secretary for Policy; the Executive Secretariat; the Board of Contract Appeals; the Departmental Office of Civil Rights; the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response; the Office of Public Affairs; and the Office of the Chief Information Officer. The Assistant Secretaries, the General Counsel, and the Inspector General also report directly to the Secretary.

(b) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy. This Office is composed of the Offices of Environment, Energy and Safety; and Economics.

(c) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs. This Office is composed of the Offices of Aviation International Economics; International Transportation and Trade; International Aviation; and Aviation Analysis.

(d) Office of the General Counsel. This Office is composed of the Offices of Environmental, Civil Rights, and General Law; International Law; Litigation; Legislation; Regulation and Enforcement; and Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings.

(e) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs. This Office is composed of the Offices of Programs and Evaluation; and Budget.

(f) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs. This office is composed of the Offices of Congressional Affairs and Intergovernmental Affairs.

(g) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration. This Office is composed of the Offices of Personnel; Management Planning; Information Resource Management; Administrative Services and Property Management; Hearings; Acquisition and Grant Management; Security; Financial Management; and Administrative Systems Development.

(h) Office of the Inspector General. The duties and responsibilities of the Office of Inspector General are carried out by the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations; the Assistant Inspector General for Policy, Planning, and Resources; and the Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations.


§ 1.23 Spheres of primary responsibility.

(a) Secretary and Deputy Secretary. Overall planning, direction, and control of departmental affairs including civil rights, contract appeals, small and disadvantaged business participation in departmental programs, transportation research and technology, intelligence and security, and public affairs.

(b) The Under Secretary for Policy. Provides leadership in the development of policy for the Department, supervises the policy activities of Assistant Secretaries with primary responsibility for aviation, international, and other transportation policy development and carries out other powers and duties prescribed by the Secretary. Assists the Secretary and Deputy Secretary in carrying out a variety of executive and managerial policies, programs and initiatives. Serves as the focal point within the Federal Government for coordination of intermodal transportation policy which brings together departmental intermodal perspectives, advocates intermodal interests, and provides secretarial leadership and visibility on issues that involve or affect more than one operating administration.

(c) General Counsel. Legal services as the chief legal officer of the Department, legal advisor to the Secretary and the Office of the Secretary; final authority within the Department on questions of law; professional supervision, including coordination and review, over the legal work of the legal offices of the Department; drafting of legislation and review of legal aspects of legislative matters; point of coordination for the Office of the Secretary and Department Regulations Council.
advice on questions of international law; advice and assistance with respect to uniform time matters; ensures uniform departmental implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552); responds to requests for records of the Office of the Secretary including the Office of the Inspector General, under that statute; review and final action on applications for reconsideration of initial decisions not to disclose unclassified records of the Office of the Secretary requested under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(3); promotion and coordination of efficient use of Department legal resources; recommendation, in conjunction with the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of legal career development programs within the Department.  

(d) Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy. Principal policy advisor to the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary. Public policy development, coordination, and evaluation for all aspects of transportation, with the goal of making the Nation’s transportation resources function as an integrated national system; evaluation of private transportation sector operating and economic issues; regulatory and legislative initiatives and review; energy, environmental, disability, and safety policy and program development and review; and transportation infrastructure assessment and review.  

(e) Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs. Public policy assessment and review; private sector evaluation; international transportation and transport-related trade policy and issues; regulatory and legislative initiatives and review of maritime/shipbuilding policies and programs; transport-related trade promotion; coordination of land transport relations with Canada and Mexico; technical assistance and science and technology cooperation; international visitors’ programs; economic regulation of the airline industry; and essential air service program.  

(f) Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs. Preparation, review and presentation of Department budget estimates; liaison with OMB and Congressional Budget and Appropriations Committees; departmental financial plans, apportionments, reappropriations, reprogrammings, and allotments; program and systems evaluation and analysis; program evaluation criteria; program resource plans; analysis and review of legislative proposals and one-time reports and studies required by the Congress; budgetary and selected debt and administrative matters relating to the Office of the Secretary.  

(g) Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs. Coordination of legislative and non-legislative relationships; congressional affairs; communications and coordination with Federal, State and local governments, industry and labor, and with citizens and organizations representing consumers.  

(h) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal Government Affairs. Plan, coordinate and implement the Department’s policies and programs with respect to Indian tribes and tribal organizations. Coordinate intra-Departmental tribal transportation programs and activities. Serve as the Department’s primary point of contact in relationships with public and private organizations and groups related to Indian tribes and tribal organizations. Participate in any negotiated rulemaking relating to, or having an impact on, projects, programs, or funding associated with the tribal transportation program.  

(i) Assistant Secretary for Administration. Organization; delegations of authority; personnel ceiling control; management studies; personnel management; acquisition and grant management (except for the responsibility listed for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization in this section); information resource management; financial management; development and implementation of a Departmental Accounting and Financial Information System (DAFIS); property management information; security; computer support; telecommunications; and administrative support services for the Office of the Secretary and certain other components of the Department.  

(j) Inspector General. Conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations, review existing and proposed legislation and make recommendations.
to the Secretary and Congress (Semi-annual reports) concerning their impact on the economy and efficiency of program administration, or the prevention and detection of fraud and abuse; recommend policies for and conduct, supervise, or coordinate other activities of the Department for the purpose of promoting economy and efficiency in program administration, or preventing and detecting fraud and abuse.

(k) Executive Secretary. Central facilitative staff for the Immediate Office of the Secretary and the Secretarial Officers.

(l) Board of Contract Appeals. Conducts trials and issues final decisions, which are appealable to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, on appeals from contracting officer decisions under contracts awarded by the Department and its constituent administrations in accordance with the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, 41 U.S.C. 601 et seq.; sits as the Contract Adjustment Board with plenary authority to grant extraordinary contractual relief in accordance with 50 U.S.C. 1431–1435 and Executive Order 10789 (3 CFR, 1954–1958 comp., p. 426), as amended; hears and decides all contractor and subcontractor debarment, suspension, or ineligibility cases pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, 48 CFR 9.402; judges serve as “neutrals” under the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, 5 U.S.C. 581 et seq., in contract-related matters; and performs such other adjudicatory functions assigned by the Secretary as are consistent with the duties and responsibilities of the Board as set forth in 41 U.S.C. 601 et seq.

(m) Departmental Office of Civil Rights. The Director of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights serves as the Department’s Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer and Title VI Coordinator. The Director also serves as principal advisor to the Secretary on matters involving information and information systems management.

(n) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. Responsible for the Department’s implementation and execution of the functions and duties under sections 8 and 15 of the Small Business Act, as amended, (15 U.S.C. 637 and 644), and for other departmental small and disadvantaged business policy direction.

(o) [Reserved]

(p) Office of Intelligence, Security and Emergency Response. Responsible for intelligence and security matters within the Department of Transportation that affect the safety of the traveling public, and for emergency preparedness and response functions and activities within the Department and operation of the Department’s Crisis Management Center.

(q) Office of Public Affairs. Focal point for public information and departmental relations with the news media, the general public, and selected special publics.

(r) Office of the Chief Information Officer. Serves as principal advisor to the Secretary on matters involving information resources and information systems management.

§ 1.24 Authority.

(a) The Deputy Secretary: (1) May exercise the authority of the Secretary, except where specifically limited by law, order, regulation, or instructions of the Secretary; and (2) serves as the Chief Acquisition Officer.