



Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

Reduce Regulatory Burden

Goal Leader:

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Overview

Goal Statement

DOT will implement regulatory reform initiatives by evaluating existing regulations in order to lower regulatory burdens and costs on industry and the public. In conjunction with the release of the agency's fall Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, the Department will implement a regulatory reform agenda through the end of FY 2019, focusing specifically on issuing two deregulatory actions for every new regulatory action proposed and achieving a total incremental cost savings from all deregulatory and significant regulatory actions of no less than \$35 million per year for FY 2018 and no less than \$140 million per year for FY 2019.

Overview (cont.)

Challenge

Improvement of regulations is a continuous focus for the Department. There should be no more regulations than necessary, and those regulations should be straightforward, clear, and designed to minimize burdens. Our regulations should be designed to achieve the regulatory goal (e.g. safety) and that goal should be achieved with the least amount of burden. Once issued, regulations and other agency actions should be reviewed periodically and revised to ensure that they continue to meet the needs for which they originally were designed, and remain cost-effective and cost-justified. Among other actions seeking to achieve these means, the President issued Executive Order 13771, “Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs.”

OMB has issued guidance on implementing this Executive Order, and DOT has established a Regulatory Reform Task Force pursuant to Executive Order 13777 to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations to the Secretary regarding their repeal, replacement, or modification. Other activities to reduce regulatory burdens also fit into this area, such as the review required by Executive Order 13783, “Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth”, and the subsequent burden reducing efforts that will result from the review.

Goal Structure & Strategies

Strategies to accomplish the APG include the following:

The Department has sought input from the public on existing regulations and other agency actions that are good candidates for repeal, replacement, or modification. In recognition of the fact that safety is the Department's highest priority, the Department has sought comments on those existing regulations and other agency actions that may be repealed, replaced, or modified without compromising safety. The public was encouraged to identify regulations that (a) eliminate jobs or inhibit job creation; (b) are outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective; (c) impose costs that exceed benefits; (d) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with regulatory reform initiatives and policies; (e) could be revised to use performance standards in lieu of design standards, or (f) potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources.

DOT is currently reviewing all public input received to help the Department determine what regulations may be modified or repealed. In addition, DOT will continue to utilize the Regulatory Reform Task Force (RRTF) to evaluate existing regulations and to make recommendations for their repeal, replacement, or modification.

DOT has also issued three administrative procedure directives that adopt many of the principles outlined in the aforementioned Executive Orders, to: (1) update policies and procedures governing the development and issuance of regulations by the Department's operating administrations and components of the Office of the Secretary; (2) establish enhanced procedures for the review and clearance of guidance documents; and (3) clarify the procedural requirements governing enforcement actions initiated by the Department, including administrative enforcement proceedings and judicial enforcement actions brought in Federal court. These procedures will increase transparency, provide for more robust public participation, and strengthen the overall quality and fairness of the Department's administrative actions. DOT currently is working to codify these procedures in the Department's regulations.

Summary of Progress – FY 19 Q4

Current Status

The Department met its goal for FY2018 by issuing 23 deregulatory rules and 1 significant regulatory rule in FY 2018. These actions resulted in net annualized cost savings of \$83.9 million. Final numbers on the Department's deregulatory rulemakings and cost-saving actions for FY 2018 were published in the fall Unified Agenda found on www.reginfo.gov.

The Department also met its goal for FY2019 by issuing 23 deregulatory actions and 4 significant regulatory actions. These actions resulted in net annualized cost savings of \$149 million. Reducing regulatory burden remains a priority of the Department and therefore, while it will not be tracked as an agency priority goal next fiscal year, the Department's continued progress on this objective will continue to be documented on www.reginfo.gov.

Key Milestones

The Department met its goal for FY2018 by issuing 23 deregulatory rules and 1 significant regulatory rule in FY 2018. These actions resulted in net annualized cost savings of \$83.9 million.

Milestone Summary			
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Comments
Achieve a total incremental cost of all significant regulatory and deregulatory actions of less than \$140 million per year for FY 2019.	End of FY 2019	Met	Rules issued by the Department so in FY 2019 resulted in a total incremental cost of - \$149 million per year.
Provide for two deregulatory actions for every new regulatory action.	End of FY 2019	Met	In FY 2019, the Department issued 23 EO 13771 deregulatory actions, and only 4 significant regulatory actions.