

# GSA FLEET UPDATE



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## Toth Talk – Welcome

As we settle into the new fiscal year, I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and good spirits and ready to make fiscal year 14 the best yet. I would like to take a brief opportunity to highlight our successes as a Federal Fleet and show you what we have in store for you in 2014.

In FY13, I am proud to report 82% of the 41,000 replacement vehicles GSA procured for you, were alternative fuel vehicles. This is a six percent increase from FY12! By electing to replace your current Fleet vehicle with an alternative fuel vehicle, on average you are able to achieve a 19.42% increase in fuel efficiency.

As a result of your continued partnership we were able to bring you new services and opportunities to optimize your fleet as well as build on the success of some existing services. For customers with agency-owned vehicles, FY14 brought the continuation of our Hybrid Consolidation Offer, as well as the opportunity to begin using our FedFMS system, which serves as a standardized and reliable government-wide vehicle inventory management system for agency-owned vehicles at the lowest cost possible. For our leasing customers we began the year

with a 1% rate reduction, helping you to reduce costs and acquire the newest technology vehicles and solutions on the market. FY14 also means the expansion of our highly successful WebSTR system, an online reservation system for your vehicle and equipment needs through GSA Fleet’s Short Term Rental (STR) Program.

We strive to bring you the right solutions at the right prices to meet and exceed your mission requirements. The GSA Fleet Update highlights these offerings as well as covers diverse topics from our FY14 awards to how to properly use your data to help better manage your fleet. It also provides expert advice from some of our knowledgeable mechanics and technicians in the field and a closer look into some safety–best practices. Although there will be challenges ahead, I am confident we can work together to continue to grow a sustainable and cost–effective federal fleet.

William A. Toth, Jr. Director of Motor Vehicle Management

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*ANNOUNCEMENT: GSA Fleet FY2014 Rate Reduction*

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST, 2013 ALL GSA FLEET LEASING CUSTOMERS RECEIVED A 1% RATE REDUCTION.

THE ONLY EXCLUSIONS TO THE REDUCTION ARE VEHICLES OVER \$75,000 IN PURCHASE PRICE.

**FY2014 Awards**

In FY2014, GSA offers more green and cost savings opportunities than ever before. The sedan offerings boast miles per gallon (MPG) ratings that far exceed the MPGs of their predecessors, new vehicle options in the mini-van category as well as light-duty vehicle models never before offered in compressed natural gasoline and diesel. GSA Fleet is excited to reintro-

duce the compact pickup truck and a light duty selection that now comes standard with power windows and locks . For leasing customers, GSA Fleet reduced its rates by 1% over FY13, giving you the opportunity to optimize your fleet and take advantage of newer technology vehicles, all at a lower cost.



*The Compact Pickup is back!  
We also have three low greenhouse gas vans including 2 Cargo Vans!*

**Low Bid 8C on Gas – Chevy Cruze**  
\$160 Month \$0.135/mile



**Low Bid 8C for E85 (NON-CARB states) – Ford Focus**  
\$160 Month \$0.135/mile



**9C – Low GHG 2014 Gasoline Chevy Malibu**  
25/36/29  
307 GPM



Rate for all 9Cs:  
\$171/month  
\$0.15/mile

**Current Offering—Hybrid Consolidation**

As of April 2013, GSA Fleet began offering a nationwide initiative to give federal agencies the opportunity to replace their aging fleet with GSA- leased hybrid sedans through consolidating their assets with GSA. GSA funds the total incremental cost to replace eligible consolidated vehicles as well as all of the upfront costs of replacing commercially-leased assets so that we can assist you in getting out of your high cost leases.

The deal includes all of the benefits and ancillary services GSA Fleet provides—end to end fleet management services, including acquisition and disposal, maintenance control and accident management, fuel and loss prevention services and data management tools necessary to efficiently and effectively manage a fleet.

Please submit all requests to [gsafleet-consolidation@gsa.gov](mailto:gsafleet-consolidation@gsa.gov)

## Green & Data Driven

GSA strives to provide you with the data necessary to successfully and efficiently manage your fleet. Every year our Alternative Fuel team prepares a guide complete with all the GSA alternative fuel vehicle offerings including a concise listing of the federal sustainability mandates and a listing of low-green house gas compliant vehicles. In FY14, we implemented a brand new Guide which for the first time is a complete acquisition decision tool to help you right-size and optimize your fleet. Visit our website to see how the tool can help you today: <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104224>.

## Short Term Rental Program Offers Equipment Rentals

The Short Term Rental (STR) Program supplies vehicles and equipment to agencies to supplement temporary fleet needs. GSA handles all procurement requirements to quickly provide you with the resources you need.

The STR Program can provide the right vehicles and equipment for seasonal work, special events, surge requirements, and replacement for out of service vehicles and equipment; helping you to accomplish your agency mission. This Program may not be used for personal travel (TDY) purposes.

We offer rates well below commercial prices with easy and hassle-free procurement. With the new online reservation system, WebSTR, vehicle and equipment requests are even easier. In WebSTR you can submit and track requests, accept quotes, and view rental histories all in one place.

Other benefits include: fuel card availability, tax exempt rentals, all rental and fuel charges applied to your regular GSA Fleet bill as a separate line item, and no fee for additional drivers.

Visit [www.gsa.gov/str](http://www.gsa.gov/str) for more information.



Over 250 different pieces of equipment offered: Forklifts, Scissor Lifts, Boom Lifts, Generators, light Towers, Backhoes, Dump Trucks, Loaders, Man Lifts, Compactions, Material Vehicles, Air Compressors, Drum Rollers, Excavators and Trenchers.

## Coming soon! Enhancements to FMVRS and a New Dispatch Reservation Module

### A Redesigned Federal Motor Vehicle Registration System (FMVRS)

The FMVRS has undergone a year-long redesign for a more intuitive user experience. Improvements have been made to the look, navigation, records and reporting functions of the system. The new FMVRS consolidates many separate vehicle and license plate functions into a streamlined user interface.

To help customers familiarize themselves with the new look and feel, GSA offered 'live' online training in Fall 2013 and will soon post an interactive simulation training module to the FMVRS site.

### GSA Fleet's new Customer Dispatch Reservation Module!

Customers will soon be able to create motor pools, designate a motor pool dispatcher, and dispatch vehicles through an online reservation system. The new Dispatch Reservation Module will accommodate GSA leasing customers, participating FedFMS customers, or both! Stay tuned more details to come!



**FMVRS.FAS.GSA.gov**  
The Official Government Site to  
Register Federal Vehicles



IF YOU MUST PRINT THIS UPDATE,  
PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.



## Vehicle Recalls

GSA Fleet has made a great deal of progress in receiving and tracking recall information from GM, Ford, and Chrysler. We are now receiving automated weekly updates from each of the three manufacturers, detailing which vehicles have open recalls. The information provided is specific to each vehicle and we receive it as soon as the manufacturer is able to identify those specific VINs affected by a recall. The data is stored in our fleet management system so that we now know which recalls have been accomplished and which remain open.

You will now be receiving email notifi-

cations regarding recall work along with instructions on how to have the recall work accomplished. These email notifications are in addition to the paper notifications that you've been receiving all along from the manufacturers. Through this new email notification process, we have seen a major decrease in the number of outstanding recalls, but there are still a large number that need to be taken care of. To help facilitate the completion of these outstanding recalls, Fleet will begin sending follow up notifications more systematically and on shorter intervals until the recalls are completed.

We are working on an additional effort

to post recall information on GSA Fleet Drive-thru so that you can always have immediate access to your open recalls. Until this effort is complete, please contact your local Fleet Service Representative for information on which of your vehicles might have open recalls.

We need your assistance in order to ensure that all outstanding recalls are accomplished. When you receive a recall notice, please take your vehicle in as soon as possible to have the required work completed. By doing so, you can help assure that our vehicles and drivers are as safe as possible.

## Replacement Card Ordering

GSA's Loss Prevention Team (LPT) is pleased to announce the development of a replacement card ordering module in GSA Fleet Drive-thru. Customer agencies are now able to order lost, stolen, or damaged cards by BOAC using a streamlined form available in Drive-thru.

The module allows orders for up to six cards at one time. [Replacement-cards@gsa.gov](mailto:Replacement-cards@gsa.gov) will continue to be utilized for those agencies not accessing Drive-thru.

As always, please direct any questions to the GSA Fleet Loss Prevention Team.

Unsure how to order vehicles through GSA's Replacement Module in Drive-thru?

Visit GSA's Desktop Workshop YouTube site for a complete tutorial: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjvw-Oekj1c>

## License Plate Expiration Dates

"Where's My Expiration Date?"

You may already be aware, but expiration dates are missing from many of the GSA Fleet license plate records in the FMVRS. GSA Fleet has been working diligently with UNICOR to capture the correct data for affected records and load them in bulk to the system.

Where some of these efforts have failed, however, we are turning to you, our customers, for help. You may be contacted by your FSR or Regional Fleet representative to confirm the expiration date displayed on the physical plate of your GOV.

We ask for your cooperation and patience as we work through this proc-

ess, knowing that it is tedious, but that it will ultimately pay great dividends in the security and integrity of license plate data in the FMVRS.



## FedFMS: A History

FedFMS, GSA's fleet management information system (FMIS), creates a standardized and reliable government-wide vehicle inventory management system for agency-owned vehicles at the lowest cost possible. This GSA service helps agencies optimize vehicle inventory. FedFMS automates the import of critical inventory directly from Federal Motor Vehicle Registration System (FMVRS), reducing expensive duplication efforts and minimizing data entry errors. Automating fleet card transactions through service providers, and minimizing manual data entry, this system is a must have for any fleet manager with agency-owned vehicles.

Although it is a mandatory requirement to have a FMIS, many agencies do not or did not have one prior to the roll out of FedFMS in Spring 2013. Federal executive agencies are required by law to have a centralized system.

On April 10, 2002, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a letter to all executive branch agencies

requesting them to review their vehicle fleet operations. The need for a FMIS was confirmed by the Government Accounting Office in its May 2004 report entitled Increased Attention to Vehicle Fleets Could Result in Savings. In May 2006, the Federal Management Regulation (FMR) was amended to require agencies to have an agency-wide FMIS. FMR §102-34.340, states all agencies must have a FMIS that identifies and collects accurate inventory, cost, and use data over the complete lifecycle of each motor vehicle, and provides the information necessary to satisfy both internal and external reporting requirements.

In addition, federal agencies are required to report their agency fleet information on an annual basis to satisfy several policy mandates and key legislative requirements. The OMB-Circular A-11 Fleet Data Reporting in the Federal Automotive Statistical Tool mandates that agencies report on the size, composition, and annual costs of their motor vehicle fleet as part of their annual budget submission

to Congress. EPAct (Energy Policy Act) mandates that federal agencies report annually on their fleet makeup, percentage of alternative fuel vehicles (AFV), and petroleum reduction goals. Furthermore, EISA (Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007) requires that agencies demonstrate a 20% annual reduction in petroleum consumption, a 10% increase in AFV fuel use, and comparable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. All of these laws and policies require that federal agencies have systems in place to collect the necessary data in order to satisfy these reporting requirements.

FedFMS is the cost-effective solution developed to address all of these lapses and ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations. This solution provides agencies with the ability to analyze fleet data to reduce their costs, which in turn frees up more resources to focus on their core mission.

For more information, please visit: <https://ffms.fas.gsa.gov/>.



Enter your mileage at the pump  
Every time you fill up. It's fast and easy.

WE'RE ON THE WEB -  
VISIT US AT:

[HTTP://WWW.GSA.GOV/GSAFLEET](http://www.gsa.gov/gsafleet)

THE RIGHT VEHICLE AT THE RIGHT PRICE WITH GREAT SERVICE  
AND THE REQUIRED DATA NEEDED TO EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY MANAGE A FLEET!

## Diesel Care: Importance of Regenerating your Diesel Particulate Filters

In compliance with environmental regulations, Diesel Particulate Filtration (DPF) systems have been added to diesel engines to filter Particulate Matter (PM, or soot) from the engine to reduce emissions. Owners of diesel vehicles are responsible for maintaining DPF systems, the most imperative of which is ensuring *periodic regeneration* of the DPF. Regeneration is the process of burning off excess PM from the DPF. If this process does not take place, the DPF will plug, the engine will de-tune, and vehicle speed will drop, often to idle.

Your diesel engine is equipped with either an active or passive DPF system. Each has unique processes:

**An active DPF system** (commonly found on heavy duty trucks and buses)

uses diesel fuel injected into the DPF or an electric heating coil to create the heat necessary for regeneration. Use the notification system (colored light display on your dashboard) to follow the regeneration instructions in the owner's manual. There are 3 or 4 stages of color notification: green for clear and normal functioning; amber to indicate need to perform a parked regeneration (a second amber light is a final notice); or red to show DPF requires immediate regeneration, usually a forced variety accomplishable only by an authorized service provider.

**A passive DPF system** uses Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) injected into the DPF during regeneration to superheat the contents and burn off the PM. An onboard computer will instruct the

operator to perform step-by-step regeneration. This process includes driving the vehicle at or above a specified speed for a length of time- set by the onboard computer- to allow the DPF to auto-regenerate. *It is essential that the DEF tank does not run empty* (see a parts store or dealership for refills) to prevent engine de-tuning and idling.

**To note:** Parked regeneration should take place on a solid surface (concrete, asphalt) and never on dry grass or brush, since exhaust temperatures can reach 1,200+ degrees C. Regeneration can take 20-50 minutes, depending on PM levels.

Take care of your diesel engine; monitor its regeneration needs, and expect a reduction in unnecessary repair costs and down time.

## Vehicle Advice from your Accident Management Team

Most vehicle accidents and incidents occur when a driver is behind the wheel. However, serious damage can occur to your vehicle even after you park it if proper precautions are not taken.

Recently there has been an unusual surge in vehicle fires caused by debris and tall grass under the vehicle. An accumulation of dry vegetation on a vehicle's exhaust system or engine cradle can be a serious fire hazard when a vehicle is being operated or parked unattended. Driving your vehicle off road should be avoided unless required by your mission. If driving off road cannot be avoided,

- Frequently inspect and clean the bottom of your vehicle
- Do not park the vehicle over tall vegetation
- Carry a fire extinguisher
- Keep a mobile device with you at all times

This has been an exceptionally wet weather year. With rain, flash flooding is common. Unlike vehicle fires that affect one vehicle, flooding can damage an entire fleet, as evidenced by Sandy. Severe weather cannot be prevented, but damage to Government property including vehicles can be avoided by following:

- Be cognizant of your geographic area and where your vehicles are parked
- Can your vehicle be moved to an alternative location



After a busy day, it is a relief to park your government vehicle knowing it operates safely and is secure. Sometimes it only takes a few precautions to avoid a costly incident. Be sure your vehicle is safe and cared for even when you are not behind the wheel. But remember; never put your personal safety in jeopardy to prevent property damage.



## Are we addicted? Scientists compare distracted driving to smoking

You may have heard the current phrase ‘distracted driving is the new drunk driving,’ a reference to the fact that unfocused driving is statistically more dangerous than intoxicated driving.<sup>1</sup> Scientists are now making a new association: distracted driving can stem from a form of addiction comparable to that of cigarettes- an ‘addiction’ to our cell phones and devices.

Scientists are finding that using cell phones and electronic connection devices can be physically and emotionally compulsive, and as Transportation Secretary LaHood said, “we’re hooked on these devices and can’t put them down, anyplace, anytime, anywhere.”<sup>2</sup> Electronic devices provide a reprieve from boredom or restlessness, and a text or call alert is a promise of human connection which Stanford sociology pro-

fessor Clifford Nass says is “like catnip for humans.”<sup>3</sup> We never know when an important text or email will arrive, so we feel compelled to continually check our device.

Like cigarettes in the 1950s and ‘60s, being in constant touch with friends and community presents a ‘coolness’ factor, which an individual might prioritize over safety while driving. The joke of naming a BlackBerry phone as ‘CrackBerry’ may hint towards a more prevalent problem than we thought.

Chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board, Deborah Hersman, agrees. “Addiction to these devices is a very good way to think about it,” she said. “It’s not unlike smoking... if you can’t control your impulses, you need to lock your phone in the trunk.”

This is where the seriousness of the problem shows itself. Dr. David Greenfield, a psychologist and assistant professor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, runs a clinic called the Center for Internet and Technology Addiction, and he poses a challenge to drivers: put your phone away for a day, or even a short car ride. “Anyone who doubts [this problem], take away your phone for a day,” Dr. Greenfield said. “You’ll feel weird, ill at ease, uncomfortable.”

The key, as with any behavior change, is awareness. Take the challenge, leave your phone in your trunk once, take a focused drive, and demonstrate for yourself and those who look up to you that you value safety above the all-too-common, potentially dangerous, lure of modern technology.

1Distraction.gov <http://www.distraction.gov/download/research-pdf/Comparison-of-CellPhone-Driver-Drunk-Driver.pdf>

2The New York Times [http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/07/24/lahood-says-companies-must-wake-up-to-distracted-driving/?\\_r=1](http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/07/24/lahood-says-companies-must-wake-up-to-distracted-driving/?_r=1) and <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/18/us/reframing-the-debate-over-using-phones-while-driving.html>

3 ABA Journal [http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/some\\_experts\\_fear\\_technology\\_is\\_like\\_catnip\\_and\\_its\\_harming\\_our\\_ability\\_to/](http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/some_experts_fear_technology_is_like_catnip_and_its_harming_our_ability_to/)

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### *Break the Cycle: put down your phone when you drive.*

Distracted driving certainly includes texting, but what many people don’t realize is that a cell phone conversation while driving, regardless of hands-free technology, is also very dangerous. Please visit, [http://www.nsc.org/safety\\_road/Distracted\\_Driving/Pages/The-Great-Multitasking-Lie.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/Distracted_Driving/Pages/The-Great-Multitasking-Lie.aspx) to learn more from the National Safety Council on the myths of multitasking and help prevent the dangers that can occur due to the use of cell phones behind the wheel.

**The Great Multitasking Lie**

DEBUNKING THE MYTHS OF CELL PHONE DISTRACTED DRIVING