

**From:** Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
**Sent:** Wed, 13 Oct 2021 15:59:34 +0000  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** A Message from the Secretary on the COVID-19 Vaccines

Dear DOT Colleagues,

Last month, the President outlined a robust plan to build on our progress against COVID-19, stop the spread of the delta variant, and increase vaccinations. The plan reflects the Administration's whole-of-government approach and commitment to defeat the virus at home and abroad. A critical part of the Administration's plan requires that all Federal employees be fully vaccinated by **November 22, 2021**.

That brings me to our DOT team. I know this pandemic has been incredibly challenging for all of us—and we thank you and are truly grateful for your dedicated service during these difficult times.

Last week, you were asked to begin providing proof of vaccination. This is our next challenge—and opportunity—as a Department: to be fully vaccinated. This is what we need to do as federal employees, and as citizens of this great country, to beat back the virus and help us find a path out.

To the thousands of you who have been vaccinated and have provided proof of that vaccination, I want to personally and sincerely thank you.

If you are vaccinated and haven't yet provided proof, please do as soon as possible.

If you are partially vaccinated, please complete your vaccination series and provide proof of your vaccination.

For those who have not yet been vaccinated, **please do so now**. We have made tremendous progress in this country—now more than 3 in 4 eligible Americans have received at least their first shot and more than 186 million people are fully vaccinated. This is the necessary way to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prevent serious illness from the virus, and the more people get vaccinated, the more we can collectively strengthen our economy. We are counting on you to take this step to protect yourselves, your coworkers, and our country.

**For more information on the vaccines, and to find a location site near you, please go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).**

Thank you all for getting vaccinated, and for continuing to run this country's critical Department of Transportation at this consequential moment. Keeping our workforce healthy is a top priority and is key to fulfilling the critical mission that DOT delivers to the public every day.

All my best,  
Secretary Pete

**From:** Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
**Sent:** Thu, 27 May 2021 23:47:19 +0000  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** A Message from the Secretary (early release for tomorrow May 28th)  
**Attachments:** A Message from the Secretary.mp3

Hey everyone! Secretary Pete here. I hope that you are doing well and I hope that you are looking forward to the long weekend ahead.

It's always mixed emotions for me thinking about Memorial Day, which is an occasion to think about the sacrifice that went in to our country being possible but also an occasion to celebrate the unofficial beginning of summer and hopefully to spend time with loved ones and be able to step back a little bit from the usual routine.

There's been a lot of great work going on across the department and we've been focused on many things going on at once. From the forthcoming budget release, to the continuing negotiations over the President's Jobs Plan, to the reauthorization of the surface transportation bill, and all of the fantastic day-to-day work that you have been doing.

Of course we are also thinking about everyone impacted by the terrible shooting affecting transit workers at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. With the news on Wednesday I know that's very close to home for many in FTA and across the DOT and our hearts are with everybody who has been impacted.

At the same time my heart has been lifted by the extraordinary work and the mutual support that's been going on across this department as employees look out for each other. We just had a great conversation with the Employee Resource Groups of the AAPI community here at the department as we continue to mark Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and it's just inspiring to see all the things going on to build community and support one another across the big U.S. DOT family that we're all part of.

So I hope that after a lot of hard work you're going to be able to take some time with loved ones. Enjoy this long weekend -- and on that note, I hope that you can start a little early! **We have approved an early release of two hours for DOT federal employees who are in a work status, including telework, for tomorrow May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Now, employees that are designated essential personnel may be required by their supervisor to remain on duty, so if you're unsure about your status make sure to check.**

I hope that you have a great long weekend. Be safe, and thank you for everything you do for this department and this country.

**From:** Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
**Sent:** Fri, 16 Jul 2021 22:43:38 +0000  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** A Message from the Secretary  
**Attachments:** A Message from the Secretary.mp3

Hey everyone! Secretary Pete here. I hope that you had a great week, and wishing you a great weekend ahead.

I'm recording this from the road. We've been traveling across the country. We were in Oregon, looking at how communities there are trying to do things like improve the safety of highways and stretches of road where there have been too many crashes. We were in Arizona having a terrific conversation—an important one—with Tribal leaders, part of the Administration's commitment to Tribal consultation, and looking at remarkable work going on in downtown Phoenix with transit. And we're in Chicago right now, where I had a chance to see a proposed rail line extension on the South Side of this city. And we are now on our way to look at another remarkable project to upgrade rail infrastructure for freight in this incredibly important part of the country's economy.

Through it all, I've seen just how important it will be to advance the infrastructure vision that the President has put forward that we now have Republican and Democratic senators working on together. If you've watched the news at all the last few days, you've seen how much activity there is around this effort, and this Department has played such an important role in that. We're continuing to be enthusiastic about the potential to deliver the biggest investment in transportation infrastructure in our lifetime, and should it pass of course you will be a big part of making sure that we are able to implement those resources in that legislation.

I wanted to mention to you that we have the first installment of the Secretary's Speaker Series coming. You'll get an email about it. I felt that it was important for us to be able to have some interesting big-picture conversations that would inform the work of DOT employees. Our first was a conversation with Isabel Wilkerson, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, that I hope you will take a moment to look at and that I hope you will enjoy. And we'll be doing this from time to time to give you access to some of the most interesting people working on ideas and issues that are part of the context that we work in every day.

Again, I hope that you have a terrific weekend, hope that you are keeping safe, and wishing you all the best from out here on the road.

**From:** Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
**Sent:** Sat, 2 Oct 2021 22:49:40 +0000  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** A Message from the Secretary

All,

I hope you've heard the good news that Congress just approved a 30-day extension of the surface transportation authorization, which means that we can welcome back our furloughed colleagues from FHWA, FMCSA and NHTSA on Monday morning. Importantly, this legislation also ensures backpay for those employees.

I know the last few days have not been easy for our DOT team, especially those of you who were affected by this furlough—and I am deeply thankful for your patience, your commitment, and your service.

Sincerely,

Secretary Pete

**From:** Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
**Sent:** Fri, 1 Oct 2021 12:05:25 +0000  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** A Message from the Secretary

Good morning,

As you no doubt have seen, the FAST Act, sometimes known as the surface transportation bill, expired last night and an extension has not yet passed. As a result, some of our colleagues in parts of the Department are now furloughed.

I know that this has understandably been a source of uncertainty and anxiety for many of you. And I want you to know that our entire leadership team is doing everything in our power to work with Congress and the White House to resolve this situation as soon as possible.

I also want to underscore that employees have historically received back pay after similar furloughs in the past, and we will continue making payments to existing grantees so they can continue their work.

In the eight months since I was sworn in as Secretary of Transportation, I have been humbled and privileged to serve alongside the extraordinary staff of this Department.

We are engaged in vital, often lifesaving work. And I'm committed to ensuring that all of our colleagues can return to that work quickly.

Until then, thank you for your patience, your commitment, and your service.

Sincerely,  
Secretary Pete Buttigieg

**From:** Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
**Sent:** Fri, 11 Jun 2021 21:01:45 +0000  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** A Message from the Secretary  
**Attachments:** A Message from the Secretary .mp3

Hi everyone! Secretary Pete here. I hope that you've had a great week and wishing you a great weekend ahead.

I want to start by congratulating Nuria Fernandez, who was confirmed by the Senate yesterday to lead the Federal Transit Administration. Of course she's already been doing great work at FTA, but we're delighted to have her officially confirmed to the post—and excited about so many other terrific nominees whose confirmation is still ahead for leadership in this department.

I also want to wish everyone a happy Pride! We're seeing a lot of flags out around D.C. and around the country and as the first out, Senate-confirmed member of a president's Cabinet, it's of course personal to me and I'm delighted to be able to celebrate this occasion with so many of you. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, I'll be participating in our U.S. DOT 2021 Pride Celebration, co-hosted by DOT Pride and FAA GLOBE, from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm EST and you'll see an invite with a link soon. Hope you'll be able to join.

It's been great to see life increasingly beginning to feel like normal. Seeing our friends and family more and more, being able to get out and about. And so much of that of course is because of the success of the efforts to get more and more Americans protected with the vaccine. And I want to emphasize the message that you saw from Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg yesterday—in order to get back to our lives as individuals, in order to end this pandemic as a country, there is more work to do ensuring that Americans have access to the safe vaccine. And I want to continue to encourage everyone in this department to do your part. If you haven't gotten the vaccine yet, you can schedule an appointment at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov). I want to make sure you know that DOT employees can receive administrative leave to get their shots and if you need any down time for any side effects. And if you have any questions or concerns, I'd encourage you to reach out to your doctor and get good information.

I'm so glad to see that with this vaccine people are again able to safely gather with loved ones and, something important to us here at DOT of course, increasingly be able to move about and travel too. So wishing you all the best. Stay safe, be well, and have a great weekend.

**From:** Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
**Sent:** Fri, 30 Jul 2021 21:54:13 +0000  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** A Message from the Secretary  
**Attachments:** Message from the Secretary.mp3

Hey everyone, Secretary Pete here, wishing you a happy Friday at the end of another very eventful week, including the terrific news of advancement on the historic bipartisan infrastructure deal—something that has the potential to shape all of our work for years, and something that many in this Department are helping to shape right now working very hard, and I very much appreciate that work.

You'll see in that deal the scope of all of the different things that we do that have real impact on people's lives—something I was reminded of yesterday when we were in Baltimore, where I got to see so many elements of the importance of transportation in the U.S. I visited the Global Air Drone Academy, where there was a remarkable, diverse group of young students cultivating their interest in STEM and hopefully future careers in transportation. I visited the Port of Baltimore, one of the busiest ports in the U.S., seeing the scope and scale of what it takes to keep goods moving in our globally connected economy. And I had a chance to board the CAPE WASHINGTON, a MARAD-owned vessel that's part of our readiness in the U.S. and our national security supported by the DOT—so many important things that all of you work on every day.

And in that vein, I wanted to let you know about a new internal SharePoint site that we've launched at [DOTnet](#) where everyone can learn more about how we're working to carry out the President's executive orders—including those related to climate, equity, COVID recovery, and more. And we'll also be using that site to highlight some of the fantastic DOT career staff helping to implement these Presidential orders—beginning with Maya Sarna, who has spent over ten years at FTA and OST, and is now helping us do work to advance equity for underserved communities. Across the modes, you are doing such important work, and I'm glad that can be featured on this site. I hope you'll take a moment to check it out.

Finally, and very importantly, I want to speak to the Administration's updates to our COVID guidance and policies. You've hopefully seen that new guidance is out regarding required mask usage, regardless of vaccination status, in federal buildings located in areas of substantial or high spread. And you may have read that the Administration will also be requiring all federal employees and on-site contractors to attest to their vaccination status. For those who are unvaccinated, or choose not to answer, there will be a requirement for testing 1-2 times per week. You can expect more information about this to come out before it's implemented.

We have come such a long way since the beginning of this pandemic, but moments like this are difficult reminders that it is not over. We are still in it, and as we work to get all the way to the other side, it's more important than ever to make sure that we're taking steps to help keep one another—and ourselves and our families and our communities—safe. So please remember if you are not yet vaccinated, you can get an appointment and good information at [vaccines.gov](#). Every American over the age of 12 is eligible, and I trust that all of us will continue to do our part to protect ourselves, our families, our coworkers, and our communities.

So, on that note, stay safe, be well, and I hope that you have a great weekend.





**From:** Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
**Sent:** Fri, 3 Sep 2021 22:15:45 +0000  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** A Message from the Secretary  
**Attachments:** S1 Voicemail.mp3

Hello everyone! It's Secretary Pete and I hope that you're doing well.

I want to begin by recognizing the courage and the sacrifice of our extraordinary service members throughout the United States' twenty-year engagement in Afghanistan. And especially thinking about those who gave their lives last week helping to evacuate fellow Americans and our allies. It's so important for us to acknowledge and remember their service and to honor it with our own service in this Department.

I want to thank all of our DOT colleagues who were involved in helping with this evacuation effort. I know these weeks have been hard, especially for the many veterans and their families who are part of this Department. And as Deputy Secretary Trottenberg noted in her email on Friday, anyone who needs help is encouraged to take advantage of our Employee Assistance Program\*.

I'm also thinking about our colleagues who are helping to respond to Hurricane Ida, and the many whose lives were personally affected. If you need any help planning after this hurricane our new Worklife4You Program can connect you with resources—so I hope you will ask about that in your part of the Department.

America's entire transportation workforce has overcome such a hard year, and it has kept this country going. The unions that represent so many of those workers also represent such an important part of how America has been able to build a broad middle class and an equitable economy. And as we head into Labor Day I hope that we will take a moment to reflect on the hard-fought victories that have resulted from the labor movement's work, and what the next generation of progress can mean for America's workers.

And on that note – I hope that you are taking advantage of the early release today to get ready for that holiday weekend.

Lastly I want to touch on some personal news. As many of you have heard, my husband Chasten and I have recently become parents and really appreciate the well-wishes and the support that we have received. I know so many of you have experienced the unreal moments – of course the sleep deprivation, but also just the unbelievable joy that comes with parenthood. And I know that, certainly for me, the idea that we so often talk about *leaving this country a better place for our children* takes on a completely new meaning and it's just such an important part of what we do in this Department. So it's given me one more reason to be honored to be in this role and so glad for the opportunity to work with you all.

So a big thanks again for everything that you do. I hope that you will have some rest in the days ahead. We've got a lot of big things coming up.

Thank you, take care, and have a great weekend.

\*Links for the program's mentioned in the Secretary's voicemail:

- Link for DOT: [DOT Intranet | Work-Life & Wellness](#)
- Link for FAA: [FAA WorkLife Programs](#)

**From:** Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
**Sent:** Sat, 15 May 2021 01:48:52 +0000  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** A Message from the Secretary  
**Attachments:** A Message from the Secretary.mp3

Hey everyone! Secretary Pete here at the end of a very busy week. I hope that you had a good week and have a great weekend ahead.

I want to thank everyone who has played a role in responding to the Colonial Pipeline cyberattack. It was an example of just how many different areas the Department of Transportation touches and I was so appreciative of the ways in which people across this department have stepped up to find ways to be part of the solution and help me respond to the President's directive to make sure that we had a whole-of-government approach to mitigate the impacts this was having on people in so many parts of the country.

And also a reminder, I think, of just how important infrastructure is. That a piece of infrastructure very few people had ever heard of wound up affecting day-to-day life so quickly. That's one of the reasons why we're working so hard to make sure that all forms of infrastructure get the resources they need. And while we're doing that work and the ongoing dialogue about the American Jobs Plan, I know that you also do that work every day making sure that the infrastructure of this country is safe, operational, well-supported and properly funded. And I want to thank you for that too.

Again, such an extraordinary week in reminding us what's at stake in delivering good, safe, quality, transportation infrastructure for the American people and a reminder of the importance of the work that you all do.

So thank you for everything that you're doing. Take care, be safe, and see you soon.