



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

MAR 16 2007

Sean Kane
Safety Research & Strategies
340 Anawan Street
Suite 200
Rehobeth, MA 02769

Dear Mr. Kane,

This is in regards to your letter dated January 5th expressing concerns about the availability of documents and the long term preservation of agency records through the Technical Information Services (TIS), specifically in regards to the Reading Room as we prepare to move to the new building. I am pleased to tell you that we received confirmation last week from the Department of Transportation's office that oversees the move plans that they will provide space in the publicly accessible area of the new building for our Reading Room files. The logistics are to be worked out over the next several weeks. Therefore, the issues raised by yourself and other safety partners should no longer be of concern.

We appreciate your concern for the preservation of NHTSA records. You can be assured that NHTSA records will continue to be preserved for posterity in the manner specified by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Specifically, the Reading Room does not hold any NHTSA records, as only copies of records are provided in the Reading Room, with the originals held by the originating office or NARA. In addition, we are taking steps to make more of the records available on-line. For example, the Reading Room has a document, the Docket Comment Index, identified by NARA as a finding aid. As such, we have determined that it should be made more easily accessible. We are having it scanned and will make it available electronically as soon as that task is completed.



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In addition to the TIS Reading Room files being available in the new building, the TIS function will still exist and you will still be able to request copies of public documents and research services through them. TIS currently answers hundreds of requests a month from the public, including motor vehicle safety research and advocacy organizations such as yours. You will still receive the same level of high quality TIS services as you have in the past.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret H. O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Margaret H. O'Brien
Chief Information Officer