**Project Summary**

The Center for Truck and Bus Safety (CTBS) at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) has developed supplemental defensive driving tips information and generated examples of defensive driving tips for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers based on the video collected during the research completed for the Drowsy Driver Warning System Field Operational Test (DDWS FOT).

The goal of this study was to provide CMV drivers and fleet managers with information about defensive driving techniques and video examples of driving tips via a developed user-friendly webpage on FMCSA’s website.

In 2005, a total of 442,000 large trucks were involved in traffic crashes in the U.S. and 4,932 were involved in fatal crashes, resulting in 5,212 fatalities (FMCSA, 2007). Naturalistic data have consistently shown that driver error or behavior is the major contributing factor in large truck crashes (Dingus et al., 2002; Hanowski et al., 2000; Hickman et al., 2005; LTCCS, 2005). As a solution, research data recommend improving driver behavior and safety by implementing driver training programs (Beilock et al., 1989; Uzgiris et al., 1991) thus emphasizing the fact that driver training is key to safety.

In the trucking industry, numerous driver training programs (Smith System, J.J. Keller, etc.) exist that claim to have a significant effect on driver improvement training in the area of defensive driving but these programs are not freely accessible to all CMV drivers and fleets. One of the study’s goals was to develop a new driver training program which would supplement existing training information. The developed training information content would be made freely accessible to the general public through a webpage hosted on FMCSA’s website. In addition, the information content of this new training program will be based on naturalistic data collected by the DDWS FOT study.

The new program is comprised of two key components. The first component provides training information about driver errors and associated driving tips to help prevent these errors. The output is a list of defensive driving tips as generated previously in this document. In addition, naturalistic driving videos are provided to support the developed information content about defensive driving tips. The information content has been made accessible to the general public via a webpage, which is the second component of this new program.

The design of this webpage is based on usability principles considering that CMV drivers and fleet carriers would be its primary users. A webinar meeting of fleet managers was conducted to implement maximum usability of the driver training information content and its user-friendliness.

Currently, this project has gleaned and synergized the most informative content about specific driver behavior errors along with their preventive measures (driving tips) for the new web-based training tool.

Since the focus is on driver training via a website medium, VTTI conducted a webinar with fleet safety managers to evaluate preliminary driving tips information. VTTI, in conjunction with the sponsor, FMCSA, has completed the webpage for this new training tool which can be found at: www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/outreach/education/driverTips/index.htm