

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Obama, on Friday, announced that he has nominated David L. Strickland to be the new administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Strickland has served for eight years on the staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. As the Senior Counsel for the Consumer Protection Subcommittee, he is currently the lead staff person for the oversight of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Federal Trade Commission, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. He has also served as the lead Senate staff person in the formulation of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) reforms and standards included in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and in a staff leadership role in the reauthorization of the NHTSA in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005 (SAFETEA-LU).

His work in advising Commerce Committee members led to the inclusion of several significant vehicle safety mandates, including the electronic stability control mandate for every passenger vehicle. Mr. Strickland advised Congressional members on safety reforms and funding increases for the NHTSA's seatbelt and drunk driving grant programs. Mr. Strickland earned his J.D. degree at Harvard Law School, and his B.S. Degree in Communication Studies and Political Science at Northwestern University. Strickland's nomination was the subject of a Senate Hearing yesterday where he faced no opposition. The MRF looks forward to continue to work with Mr. Strickland once he is approved by the full Senate. We hope he takes a sensible approach to motorcycle safety.

#### 2010 grant money

The last round of the 2010 grant money was dispersed recently. \$7 Million dollars total was sent to individual states to be used for motorcycle safety purposes. All 50 states received at least \$100,000 with some of the more populated states getting more than \$300,000. To see the full list click here

#### On another note

It has got virtually nothing to do with motorcycling but many riding organizations have kept a close eye on the Patriot Act. The Patriot act is a federal surveillance program designed to give greater abilities to federal investigators when working on international terrorism issues. Some fear that giving the ability to the feds to intercept private information will eventually be used on other groups of individuals, not just terrorists.

Three key provisions are expiring at the end of this year and lawmakers are looking to include their extension in an upcoming Omnibus. An omnibus is giant piece of legislation that lawmakers are unlikely to vote against.

Congress typically includes controversial provisions in omnibus legislation and the patriot act is controversial to say the least.

One of the expiring provisions allows the government to seek orders from a special federal court for "any tangible thing" that it says is related to a terrorism investigation, such as business records. Another allows the

government to seek court orders for roving wiretaps on suspected terrorists who shift their modes of communication.

The third provision, which the Justice Department told lawmakers in September has never been used, allows the government to apply to the special court for surveillance orders on "lone wolf" terrorists not necessarily connected to a larger organization.

The MRF has no position on the Patriot Act.

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The following is a list of the States that qualified for FY 2009 Section 2010 grants and the amounts to be awarded:

State FY 2009 Motorcyclist Safety Grants

ALABAMA \$114,238  
ALASKA \$100,000  
ARIZONA \$111,200  
ARKANSAS \$100,000  
CALIFORNIA \$482,959  
COLORADO \$110,080  
CONNECTICUT \$100,000  
DELAWARE \$100,000  
FLORIDA \$257,007  
GEORGIA \$164,399  
HAWAII \$100,000  
IDAHO \$100,000  
ILLINOIS \$220,884  
INDIANA \$133,372  
IOWA \$101,658  
KANSAS \$104,884  
KENTUCKY \$105,047  
LOUISIANA \$104,965  
MAINE \$100,000  
MARYLAND \$106,176  
MASSACHUSETTS \$119,970  
MICHIGAN \$186,872  
MINNESOTA \$130,550  
MISSISSIPPI \$100,000  
MISSOURI \$136,277  
MONTANA \$100,000  
NEBRASKA \$100,000  
NEVADA \$100,000  
NEW HAMPSHIRE \$100,000  
NEW JERSEY \$144,587  
NEW MEXICO \$100,000  
NEW YORK \$291,150  
NORTH CAROLINA \$158,704  
NORTH DAKOTA \$100,000  
OHIO \$202,304  
OKLAHOMA \$107,642  
OREGON \$100,000  
PENNSYLVANIA \$214,038  
PUERTO RICO \$100,000  
RHODE ISLAND \$100,000  
SOUTH CAROLINA \$101,080  
SOUTH DAKOTA \$100,000  
TENNESSEE \$127,038  
TEXAS \$366,564  
UTAH \$100,000  
VERMONT \$100,000  
VIRGINIA \$138,601

WASHINGTON \$127,519  
WEST VIRGINIA \$100,000  
WISCONSIN \$130,235  
WYOMING \$100,000  
TOTAL \$7,000,000