

Appendix A. Rules of Behavior for TRCS

The Transportation Research Collaborative Site (TRCS) is intended to foster collaboration and provides tools allowing discussion feedback and interaction among users. As users, you are free to share ideas and opinions as long as they conform to the collaborative site(s)'s purpose. In other words, you are expected to be honest and be respectful of others, not to insult, sell commercial or others services or make public accusations. While we do not control or censor the posting of messages, information or files, we do remove offensive material.

As a user of the collaborative site, you agree **NOT** to:

1. Falsely present yourself as a representative, employee, or official of a governmental entity by accidental or deliberate means including misleading or confusing statements in your postings.
2. Stray from the discussion topic, or make personal attacks on other website users and/or participants (personal attacks are defined as comments that reflect upon the person instead of their opinion), or make specific accusations regarding individual corporations or contracts.
3. Post or transmit any slanderous, defamatory, obscene, indecent, pornographic, profane, violent, abusive, insulting, threatening, offensive or harassing comments and/or information of any kind. We will not tolerate such postings, including without limitation any transmissions constituting or encouraging conduct that would constitute a criminal offense.
4. Post or re-post a message excessively, especially unsolicited advertisements, even if they are directly or indirectly related to the purpose of the site. Advertising of any kind, including non-profit organizations, is not permitted.
5. Add or post any material any copyrighted material to the site, without the written permission of the copyright owner, or engage in research misconduct.

As a user, you also:

1. Understand that these sites may experience failures or other service outages without notice.
2. Do not hold Department of Transportation (DOT) and any Operating Administrations (OAs) or the creators, operators, or related entities to the sites responsible or liable ("indemnify and hold harmless") for the inability to connect to or use the sites, or for any loss or corrupted data, or for any defamatory or offensive material(s) which you may encounter on or originating from the sites, or for the conduct, opinions, or publications of any user, or for any other problem whatsoever related to the use or existence of the sites.
3. Understand that DOT has no obligation to acknowledge, mediate or otherwise settle any disputes or differences in opinion that may arise between users.
4. Understand that DOT and its contractors have no obligation to monitor the discussion groups. However, they reserve the right at all times to disclose any information as necessary to satisfy any law and regulation and to edit, refuse to post, or to remove any information or links, in whole or in part, that are in violation of these terms and conditions or of applicable law.
5. Understand that for the purpose of contacting you and to foster collaboration, you will be asked to provide contact and professional networking information. This Information may be shared with members of this site. If you choose not to share this information, you may opt out of doing so.