



CHARTER
U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure Council

April 28, 2008

I. Establishment

The establishment of U.S. DOT's Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure Council (Council) is in accord with United States efforts to underscore the importance of renewable and alternative energy technologies to increase America's energy security. The more sources of energy we have, the less influence any one of them, such as oil, has over the United States' security and prosperity. Renewable energies are promising new sources for energy because their supply can be regenerated. The establishment of this Council will strengthen cross modal collaboration, explore complex delivery and distribution challenges, and support DOT's recognized responsibilities for transportation vehicle and infrastructure safety in all modes of transportation, as well as established regulatory authorities and responsibilities.¹

II. Purpose

a) *General*

The purpose of the Council is to coordinate, facilitate and inform all DOT activities concerning research, development and demonstrations related to all alternative fuel powered transportation vehicles and conveyances, stationary applications, and the supporting fuel distribution infrastructure. The Council will also coordinate the various codes and standards activities concerning alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure affecting transportation, including international regulatory responsibilities.

b) *Emphasis Areas*

The Council will emphasize DOT activities in the following areas:

- 1) Establishing codes and standards for the safety of alternative fuel vehicles, conveyances, facilities, and infrastructure for all modes of transportation.

¹ Consistent with the Energy Policy Act of 1992, alternative fuels are defined as Biodiesel, Electricity, Ethanol, Hydrogen, Methanol, Natural Gas and Propane. Other emerging fuels that are currently under development and may impact emissions or energy security policy in the future will be considered at the discretion of the Council.

- 2) Developing, demonstrating, and deploying alternative fuel vehicles and conveyances, across the modes.
- 3) Improving transportation safety and mitigating hazards through development of a safe alternative fuel infrastructure, across the modes and in rural and urban environments.
- 4) Supporting DOT policy actions and decisions consistent with Departmental strategic goals and informed by the results of modal and cross-cutting research and analyses.
- 5) Analyzing and evaluating transportation system capacity, financing, and other economic issues and drivers.

c) *Resource Identification*

The Council will identify and pursue needed resources to support DOT's safety and regulatory research, development, demonstration and deployment roles concerning alternative fuel technologies and infrastructure in transportation.

d) *Leadership*

The Council will perform these tasks to provide leadership of the DOT portion of the Alternative Fuels Program and the coordinating role described in the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act, Public Law 108-426.

e) *Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure Roadmap*

The Council will prepare an alternative fuels and infrastructure roadmap that will do the following: analyze and evaluate the above-described emphasis areas; make recommendations; create a timeline that identifies modal and Departmental action items; and identify action item responsibilities and assignments. The roadmap will be completed by September 30, 2008.

III. **Organization and Membership**

a) *Chairperson*

The Council will be chaired by the Administrator, Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), or his/her designee.

b) *Co-Chairperson*

The Co-Chairperson of the Council will be the Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), or his/her designee.

c) *Membership*

All Operating Administrations (OAs) will provide at least two individuals, one with policy knowledge related to alternative fuels and one with technical knowledge related to alternative fuels, to serve on the Council. Secretarial Offices will also participate.

d) *Staffing*

OAs will provide staffing to the work of the Council, as requested by their Council members.

e) *Council Operation/Meetings*

The Council will meet at the discretion of the Chair.

IV. Action Teams

a) *Organization and Membership*

- 1) Two working teams will be established, with membership from the OAs and Secretarial Offices. These are a Research, Development and Technology (RD&T) Action Team and a Codes and Standards (C&S) Action Team. The Council Chairperson will select leads for the Action Teams.
- 2) The Council will serve as the Policy Action Team for alternative fuel issues and will review the Alternative Fuels Roadmap on an ongoing basis.
- 3) Other formal or ad hoc working teams may be established by the Council Chairperson for specific activities with the consent of the Council.

b) *Research, Development and Technology (RD&T) Action Team*

- 1) The multimodal RD&T Action Team will work to share information on and, as resources are available, conduct applied multimodal RD&T activities in support of, the research, development, demonstration, and deployment of alternative fuel vehicles, conveyances, components, stationary applications, and the infrastructure to support them.

2) The RD&T Team will:

- a) Identify economic drivers and issues relative to the alternative fuel distribution infrastructure network.
- b) Identify DOT RD&T priorities in alternative fuel transportation research, subject to the approval of the Council.
- c) Demonstrate and partner with other State and local governments and other Federal agencies by coordinating with and supporting the alternative fuel research activities of the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other Federal agencies.
- d) Prepare and maintain a catalog of DOT RD&T activities and projects related to alternative fuel, and make this information generally available.
- e) Disseminate the results of research conducted.

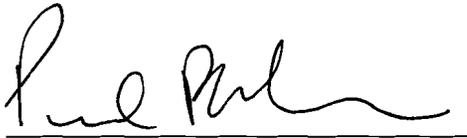
c) *Codes and Standards (C&S) Action Team*

- 1) The C&S Team will work multimodally to share information on and, as resources are available, conduct coordinated research and regulatory activities in support of, the research, development, demonstration, and deployment of alternative fuel vehicles, conveyances, components, stationary applications and the infrastructure to support them.
- 2) The C&S Team will:
 - a) Set forth coordinated DOT C&S positions in alternative fuel transportation and handling, subject to the approval of the Council.
 - b) Demonstrate partnering with other Federal agencies by coordinating with and supporting the C&S activities of the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other Federal agencies.
 - c) Ensure full multimodal support of DOT positions on alternative fuel C&S.
 - d) Prepare and maintain a catalog of DOT C&S activities related to alternative fuels, and make this information generally available.

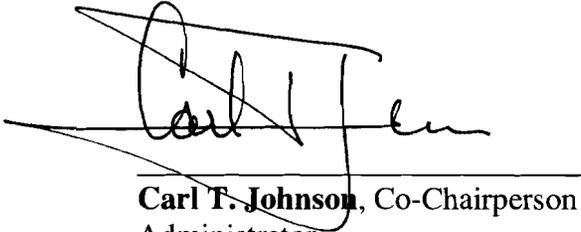
V. **Expiration**

The Council will review and determine the need for continuation every two years.

Adopted by the DOT Alternative Fuels Council, April 28, 2008.



Paul Brubaker, Chairperson and
Administrator
Research and Innovative
Technology Administration



Carl F. Johnson, Co-Chairperson and
Administrator
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration