Human Factors Coordinating Committee

For more information, please visit: http://hfcc.dot.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation

Better Transportation Through Human Factors

Our mission is to enhance awareness, understanding, application, and evaluation of human factors in transportation.

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Chronology

1991: Human Factors Working Group established by the Office of the Secretary
1993: Human Factors Coordinating Committee (HFCC) charter established and published
1994: HFCC Operator Performance Measurement Workshop: Developing Commonality across Modes
1995: HFCC supported DOT Office of Secretary's meeting: Sharing the Knowledge - DOT’s Focus on Fatigue
1997: HFCC partners with Penn State to conduct a Forum on Human-Centered Transportation and Driver Learning
1998: HFCC provided Keynote Speech at the Annual TRB Workshop on Human Factors in Transportation
1999: HFCC prepared the following documents: Managing Fatigue; Human Centered Systems; the Next Challenge in Transportation; and Operator Performance-Enhancing Technologies to Improve Safety
2002: HFCC in partnership with NASA and DoD sponsored Fatigue and Performance Modeling Workshop
2003: Demos of fatigue management and mitigation tools
2004: Tools presented at Maritime Fatigue-Management Forum
2005: Support to FMCSA Hours of Service Rules Revision
2008: HFCC produced DOT Human Factors Symposium
2009: HFCC hosted the International Conference on Fatigue Management in Transportation Operations
2010: HFCC supported Safety Council with development and management of “Hours of Service” Action Team projects
2011: HFCC initiated public outreach through HF Research Cluster meetings
2012: HFCC panel presentation at HFES Annual Meeting: HF Research to Practice
2013: HFCC developed cross-modal definition of “operator distraction” for DOT Safety Council
2015: HFCC held Operator Distraction workshop at TRB
2016: HFCC chaired Distributed Simulation workshop at TRB
HFCC booth and panel at HFES Annual Meeting: The Evolving Role of Automation in Transportation
The Secretary of Transportation established the Human Factors Coordinating Committee (HFCC) in 1991 to become the focal point for human factors issues within the Department of Transportation (DOT). Since its inception, the HFCC, a multi-modal team with government-wide liaisons, has successfully addressed crosscutting human factors issues in transportation.

The Committee has influenced the implementation of human factors projects within and between modal administrations, provided a mechanism for exchange of human factors and related technical information among modal administrations and provided synergy and continuity in implementing transportation human factors research. Its exemplary work was recognized by the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) in creating Intermodal Research Clusters modeled after the HFCC. Additionally, in 2010, the DOT Safety Council noted in their strategic plan that they will leverage the expertise within the HFCC to adopt strategies incorporating human factors principles and methods to address the roughly 80 percent of transportation accidents associated with human error.

The continued active participation of DOT modal agencies and government organizations external to DOT in HFCC incorporates a voluntary team approach to enhance human factors in the safety, security, and accessibility of the US transportation system to the public. This interagency cooperation also provides opportunities to interact with the University Transportation Centers (UTC) and leverage agency funds ensuring the most efficient use of government resources to meet the DOT’s and the nation’s needs.

Goals

- Coordinate cross-modal human factors activities.
- Provide human factors information and support to DOT senior level policy and decision makers.
- Promote human factors research and applications in transportation.
- Serve as DOT’s human factors liaisons with the international transportation research and development community.

Current Research

The HFCC uses its team process to maintain a current list of salient human factors issues. In the past, this process resulted in the HFCC identifying the impact of fatigue on safety critical operator performance as an issue in all modes of transportation, and HFCC created the multi-modal Operator Fatigue Management (OFM) program.

Current areas of interest are noted below.

- Operator Distraction
- Fatigue
- Aging
- Human Systems Integration
- Safety Culture
- System Design
- Training
- Human Error

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