

April 2010

GSA Fleet Newsletter

Toth Talk

This acquisition season has brought some challenges, but also a number of exciting changes. On January 22, we awarded vehicle contracts for 2010. I apologize for the delay, but we encountered a number of issues with the new five year contracts that went into effect this year. Those issues are behind us now.

Among the many changes this year, the most exciting is a major step towards greening the Federal fleet in order to reduce petroleum consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. To that end, GSA will purchase 4,850 hybrid compact sedans (the Ford Fusion) for placement in GSA’s leased fleet. To the extent possible, these hybrids will be allocated to each of our customer agencies based on the agency’s percentage of GSA’s non-law enforcement sedan fleet. You will not incur any incremental costs and your monthly costs will remain the same.

Our FSRs have worked with you to place the HEVs in ur-

ban areas to achieve the greatest miles per gallon benefit. They also worked to place Fusions in locations where E-85 fuel is not available as not to interfere with your efforts to meet the mandate for increasing the use of alternative fuels.

On February 23, 2010, EPA published implementation guidance on section 141 of The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) which requires Federal agencies to acquire low greenhouse gas (GHG) vehicles. Among other things, the guidance expands the definition of an alternative fuel vehicle to include low-GHG vehicles. Where alternative fuel is not available, a low-GHG vehicle can be acquired and counted as an AFV.

We’re doing a number of things to assist you with your EISA compliance. For those purchasing vehicles, the GHG scores are available in Auto Choice to help you make the right decisions when selecting vehicles for your fleet. Our FSRs are also working with

their customers to ensure that low-GHG vehicles are acquired. For more information, please see the EISA article on page 4.

GSA Fleet vehicle ordering is underway. We expect to have all light duty vehicle orders to the OEMs by early April, and deliveries could occur as early as May.

As always we appreciate being your purchasing and leasing provider.

Sincerely,



Bill Toth
Director
GSA Fleet

Check out the FY 2010 GSA Fleet lease rates at www.gsa.gov/vehiclerates



Please consider the environment

If you must print this newsletter, remember to recycle when finished reading.



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Web STR: Coming Soon, A New Way to Submit a Rental Request

GSA Fleet's Short Term Rental (STR) program turned three years old this February. Since inception, STR has processed over 6,000 rental requests submitted by phone or e-mail through our service center located in Chicago, Illinois. Starting in May, you will have the ability to order rental vehicles online using Web STR, our new rental ordering system, while the service center and our rental technicians continue to process requests.

Through Web STR you will have 24/7 access to place rental requests, view vendor bids, and accept (or decline) quotes.

The STR program is designed to assist

customers in procuring rental vehicles for periods of one to sixty days. Virtually all vehicle types are available under the program, from compact sedans to tractors and trailers. STR utilizes well-known commercial vendors to supply vehicles in all 50 states and many U.S. territories at very competitive rates, and at great savings to you.

Meant for mission-related work, the STR process is streamlined and efficient. Why take on the procurement burden for short term rental vehicles when STR, and soon Web STR, are here to do it for you? For more information about the program, please

visit the FAQ section of our website at <http://str.fas.gsa.gov>.

**Do you have an unexpected temporary vehicle need?
Contact the Short Term Rental office today.**

**Call or email us at
gsa_rental@gsa.gov
1-866-886-1232**



Tips for Turning in and Exchanging GSA Fleet Vehicles.

- Your FSR will notify you when your replacement vehicle has arrived.
 - Make sure the turn-in vehicle is in good running condition. The vehicle should have any major mechanical repairs performed before turn-in. Please coordinate this with your FSR.
 - Body damage should **NOT** be repaired. It may be repaired by GSA at the discretion of the Remarketing staff.
 - Remove all agency and personal items and equipment from the vehicle. If left in the vehicle, items will not be returned.
 - The new license plates will be on your replacement vehicles when you pick them up. Do not remove the license plates from the turn-in vehicle.
 - The new Fleet Services Card will be provided when you pick up your replacement vehicle. Please return your old card with the turn-in vehicle.
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- Leave decals on the vehicle; they will be professionally removed prior to sale.
 - Do not refuel the turn-in vehicle prior to exchange unless the tank is empty.

WANTED GSA FLEET CUSTOMERS

We are always searching for new products and services to help you better manage your fleets. Before these new products and services are offered to all GSA Fleet customers we often set up pilots to test new offerings with customers.

If you are interested in helping GSA Fleet pilot new products and services or you know of new technology you would like to see offered by GSA Fleet, please email FleetSolutions@gsa.gov.

New AutoChoice Enhancements

Now AutoChoice makes it even easier to purchase your agency vehicles. Check out these great new features.

Greenhouse Gas Scores- The manufacturers of light vehicles have provided GSA Automotive with the Greenhouse Gas scores for their 2010 model year vehicles. The Greenhouse Gas score will appear in the AutoChoice Price Comparison screen for each applicable model. The score is based on the engine and transmission

for the base vehicle in accordance with the Federal Vehicle Standards. The purchase of optional engines and transmissions may affect the provided score.

Reports- AutoChoice users with supervisory rights may now run reports for their organizations. You can search for order status reports and view past orders as far back as 2000. Search fields include whole or partial VIN, RPN/case number, requisition number and agency order number. Save queries for

reuse, and download results into a variety of formats.

Additional Requirements (AREQs)- Customers with additional vehicle requirements not offered as standard options may now upload a file describing their additional needs directly into AutoChoice. The program allows the customer to upload multiple files and supports various file types including Word, Excel, text and PDF.

Upcoming Events

16th Annual GSA Training Conference and Expo	May 4-6, 2010	Orlando, FL	www.expo.gsa.gov
Alternative Fuels & Vehicles National Conference + Expo 2010	May 9-12, 2010	Las Vegas, NV	www.afv2010.com
FedFleet 2010	July 13-15, 2010	Phoenix, AZ	www.FedFleet.org

Government Vehicle, Personal Liability

As a government employee, you are a representative of the Federal Government while driving in a GOV and anytime you are on official duty. Any tickets received while driving a GSA Fleet vehicle, or any other Government-owned vehicle, are the responsibility of the driver. Your agency is not liable. You, the driver, must pay any fines and fees associated with driving violations.



While driving in a GOV it is your duty to obey all traffic rules and laws and to follow signs and instructions carefully. Federal workers are banned from text messaging

while driving on official business or using government vehicles.

In addition to supporting the ban on text messaging while driving, GSA Fleet encourages all drivers to use

hands-free cellular devices if they must use the phone when operating a GSA Fleet vehicle. Some states and cities have already banned the use of handheld devices while driving. Be aware of the laws in your local area and always practice safe driving.

GOV Drivers are liable for:

- Parking tickets
- Toll violations
- Speeding tickets
- Safety violations

The driver of a Government vehicle does not have special parking privileges or rights to defy laws. Any tickets and fines issued to a GOV are the responsibility of the driver at the time of the infraction.

Failure to abide by rules and laws while driving a GOV can affect your driver's license and personal insurance. Restrictions and points to your license can be issued even if you are driving a GOV.



EPA Publishes EISA Guidance

On February 23, 2010, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published guidance on the implementation of section 141 of The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA). Section 141 addresses Federal vehicle fleets and supports the goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

EISA's requirements cover all new or used vehicles acquired after February 23, 2010. EISA applies to all new vehicles, including those exempt by EPACT. There are no exemptions for vehicles outside of a metropolitan statistical area, law enforcement, emergency responders, and agency fleets with less than 20 vehicles. It applies to vehicles operating overseas that were manufactured for sale in the U.S., including territories and possessions of the U.S.

Any passenger cars running on gasoline, diesel or CNG must have a GHG score of 7 or higher. Any E85 vehicle that will use the alternative fuel must

have a GHG score of 6 or higher. Any light duty trucks or medium duty passenger vehicles (MDPV) operating on gasoline, diesel or CNG must have a GHG score of 6 or higher. Any E85 light truck or MDPV that will use the alternative fuel must have a GHG score of 5 or higher.

In addition, DOE now classifies low greenhouse-gas emitting vehicles as alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). Any vehicle that meets the requirements of EISA now qualifies as an AFV depending on the availability of the alternative fuel. If the alternative fuel is not available, the agency must purchase a low GHG-emitting gasoline or diesel operated vehicle. If the alternative fuel is available the agency should purchase the AFV.

EISA was signed on December 19, 2007. EISA prohibits Federal agencies from acquiring light-duty motor vehicles and MDPV that are not low greenhouse gas emitting vehicles. The EPA

provides an annual list of low greenhouse gas vehicles on its website: <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles>. The relevant number is the GHG Score, not the Air Pollution Score or any other number.

There are two exceptions to EISA's requirements, both requiring head of agency authorization. A functional need exception is allowed when no low GHG-emitting vehicle is available that meets the "functional needs" of the agency. Agencies may also be exempt if the agency can offset the purchase of a non-low GHG-emitting vehicle by other means, such as replacing a conventional vehicle with a neighborhood electric vehicle or by buying a sufficient number of high scoring low-GHG emitting vehicles.

To view the entire regulations visit www.eere.energy.gov/femp/regulations/requirements_by_subject.html.

Electronic Passes Help Avoid Toll Booth Violations

Are you or your drivers receiving a high number of toll road violations and accompanying fines? There are a number of states that offer electronic passes that can be mounted in vehicles to electronically pay toll fees each time the vehicle passes through a toll booth.

How does the technology work? The technology encrypts your account information on an electronic tag installed in your vehicle. This tag is read by a receiving antenna at the toll plaza automatically deducting the appropriate amount from your toll account.

What are the benefits? Electronic tags used at toll facilities help reduce congestion. By eliminating the need to stop and pay the toll manually at the toll booth, more vehicles can travel through the toll facility. More importantly, this reduces the amount of time vehicles sit idling, which decreases

your trip time and reduces vehicle emissions, increasing fuel economy!

Which states use this type of technology? Most states with tolls use some type of electronic pass. EZ-PASS is the most widely accepted offering and can be used in 14 states. For more information, visit the appropriate state's EZ-PASS web-site. For example, New Jersey's state web-site is <http://www.ezpassnj.com>, where you can



view which New Jersey toll facilities accept EZ-PASS as well as links to all of the other states that accept EZ-PASS.

Fast Trak is a similar technology, available in California, that can be used on all eight Bay Area bridges. To find out more, visit Fast Trak online at: <http://www.bayareafasttrak.org>.

Florida offers the Sun Pass electronic tag. Sun Pass is accepted at over 25 toll locations in the state. Further information can be found on their website at <http://www.sunpass.com>. Other states offering similar programs are Washington, Kansas, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Texas.

Check out www.gsa.gov/fleetsolutions to learn more about electronic toll passes and how to obtain electronic passes for you use.

Fleet Welcomes the U.S. Capitol Police

GSA Fleet welcomes the United States Capitol Police (USCP) as one of our newest customers. The USCP transferred ownership of more than 200 vehicles to the GSA Fleet Program in January. This consolidation will provide substantial annual savings to the USCP by providing newer and more efficient vehicles. Because of GSA Fleet's replacement schedule, the USCP will acquire a newer fleet faster than it would have on its own.

In addition to saving USCP money, GSA Fleet will simplify fleet management operations for the USCP. GSA Fleet provides online management tools for inventory and accident data as well as electronic mileage reporting. With GSA Fleet, USCP drivers can now enter odometer readings at the fuel pump for easy mileage reporting every time

they refuel. The USCP will use the Fleet Services Card, which is accepted at over 180,000 locations, making purchasing fuel even easier.

GSA Fleet will update the USCP fleet of vehicles over the next several years. Since the average age of GSA Fleet vehicles is three years, GSA Fleet vehicles will help the USCP meet their mission with newer, more reliable vehicles. Newer vehicles also mean lower emissions and better fuel economy, which should lead to additional cost savings for the USCP.

Congress created the United States Capitol Police in 1828 with the sole mission of providing security for the United States Capitol Building. Over the past 180 years, the USCP has ex-



panded in numbers, duties, and responsibilities. Today USCP provides the Congressional community and its visitors with a full range of police services. The USCP protects life and property, prevents, detects and investigates crimes, and enforces traffic regulations throughout the 47 blocks surrounding the Capitol building, including congressional buildings, parks, and thoroughfares. The USCP are additionally responsible for protecting members of Congress and their families throughout the entire United States.

Award-Winning Defensive Driving Course

National Safety Council recently presented the GSA Fleet with its Star Award, an award given to organizations which overshadow the field in promoting defensive driving. GSA Fleet topped every other company and agency in completing the Online Defensive Driving Program category for 2009. To date, over 60,000 GSA Fleet drivers have completed the online Defensive Driving Course.

Four of GSA Fleet's customers also received the Trend Setter award for their excellence in using the Defensive Driving Program. This award is presented to participating agencies that are constantly striving to achieve a high status of performance and take an active role in promoting defensive driving. The award recipients were:

- Transportation Security Admini-

stration

- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- US Coast Guard Headquarters
- Bureau of Indian Affairs

*Without internet access, BIA trained over 1,500 employees via a CD-ROM and had an interpreter communicate the program in Navajo.

Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of work-related fatalities and represent the highest average worker's compensation claim. Last year, 23,000 GSA Fleet vehicles were involved in incidents or accidents, resulting in nine fatalities, and directly costing more than \$46 million in repairs. Educating drivers is key to changing dangerous driving behavior and promoting good habits.

Your agency can take the defensive driving course FREE through GSA Fleet. This is the most recognized course in the industry and training may qualify drivers for a discount on their personal car insurance and/or reduction of driver's license points. Family and friends may take the course at a reduced rate of \$31.95. Managers can also use GSA Fleet's CRASH to track accident and incident behavior before and after their drivers take the Defensive Driving Course. Fleet Managers can also view their accident trends, expense data and more with CRASH, which is part of GSA Fleet Drivethru.

This spring, the National Safety Council will release the 9th Edition of the Defensive Driving Online Course. Go to www.safetyserve.com/gsafleet to begin your driver safety program.



Enter your mileage at the pump every time you fill-up. It's fast and easy.

“Economy Oil Changes:” an Economical Policy

Economic pressure has led many vendors to up-sell their services to GSA Fleet customers. In a continuing effort to lower GSA Fleet maintenance costs and keep our vehicle rates low, we ask our Fleet customers to restrict preventative maintenance services at fast lube-type locations to economy oil change services only. These include:

- Chassis lube
- Engine oil
- Oil filter
- Topping off all fluids

Any additional services should be obtained only if authorized by the Maintenance Control Center. If the driver authorizes additional services without prior consent from GSA, we may bill your agency for the additional expenses. These agency-incurred expenses (AIEs) may include charges for services such as coolant flushes, transmission flushes, fuel system flushes, etc. For all

Fleet customers are asked to restrict preventative maintenance services at “fast lube” locations

other maintenance and repairs, drivers of GSA Fleet vehicles are still able to authorize charges of up to \$100 using the Fleet Services Card for fuel and maintenance. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact your local Fleet Service Representative.



Green Fleet Tip: Cut down on gas emissions by filling-up in the morning or night.

That gasoline smell at the gas station is the smell of gas emissions escaping from your tank, the other cars' tanks and the pumps as everyone fills up. Simply avoiding buying gas during the heat of the day will decrease the gas emissions that escape into the ozone when you refuel.
