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Subject: Sole Source Authority Purchase

The Mississippi Department of Transportation's Safety Education Outreach Program, which is operated out of the Highway Safety Division, is requesting authority to purchase a new rollover simulator. The simulator is a truck body mounted to a modified trailer that rotates horizontally 360 degrees about a fixed point to simulate what happens to vehicle occupants when they are unbelted in a rollover crash event.

The simulator that we are using now was purchased in 2010 and is our 2<sup>nd</sup> version since the program's inception. We are requesting authority to purchase a new unit because of the technological advances that a new unit can provide over our current model which is now more than a decade old. If we chose to only update and overhaul our current simulator instead, we would be forced to completely halt our outreach program for multiple months, which could severely damage our efforts statewide. Additionally, the anticipated upgrades needed to the existing simulator are expected to have a cost similar to what this completely new version will cost to purchase.

By purchasing this new version, we can seamlessly transition between the use of our old and new simulator without interruption to our public outreach. Additionally, this will allow us to further expand our efforts moving forward by having two units available for demonstrations rather than one, as we often face conflicting requests to provide this service.

After conducting research, we believe Ray's Body Shop in Little Falls, MN is the only manufacturer of this type of simulator in the United States. Included is a sole source letter from them to support that assertion.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this or need additional information to support this effort.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Thomas, P.E.  
Director of Highway Safety Division