# POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board

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| **OVERVIEW** | |
| Senate Committee | Commerce, Science and Transportation |
| Agency Mission | The National Transportation Safety Board is an independent, nonregulatory agency charged with determining the probable cause of transportation accidents and promoting transportation safety. |
| Position Overview | The chairman is the chief executive and administrative officer of the board. |
| Compensation | Level IV $155,500 (5 U.S.C. § 5315)[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Reports to | The National Transportation Safety Board is an independent agency. Board members serve at the pleasure of the chairman. |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** | |
| Management Scope | The five-member board is authorized to establish and manage separate offices for highway, marine, aviation, railroad, pipeline and hazardous materials investigations (49 U.S.C. § 1111). The National Transportation Safety Board had a budget request of $106 million for fiscal 2017 and 423 full-time equivalents.[[2]](#endnote-2) |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Appoints, hires and supervises officers and employees, with the exception of the full-time employees in the immediate offices of another board member * Fixes the pay of officers and employees as necessary to carry out the board’s statute * Distributes business among the officers, employees and administrative units of the board * Supervises the board’s expenditures (49 U.S.C. § 1111) * Presides over agency hearings * Testifies before congressional committees * Accompanies agency investigators in response to major transportation accidents * Serves as on-scene spokesperson for the agency[[3]](#endnote-3) |
| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** | |
| Requirements | * Transportation background * Previous leadership experience |
| Competencies | * Strong communication and interpersonal skills and ability to appear before media * Ability to work under high pressure |
| **PAST APPOINTEES** | |
| Christopher Hart (2015 to 2017) – Board Member for the National Transportation Safety Board; Deputy Director for Air Traffic Safety Oversight at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); FAA Assistant Administrator for System Safety; Deputy Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration[[4]](#endnote-4) | |
| Deborah A.P. Hersman (2009 to 2014) – Senior advisor to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; National Transportation Safety Board Member[[5]](#endnote-5) | |
| Mark Rosenker (2006 to 2008) – Vice Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board; Safety Board member; Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Military Office[[6]](#endnote-6) | |

1. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31, May 5, 2017), contains a provision that continues the freeze on the payable pay rates for certain senior political officials at 2013 levels during calendar year 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.ntsb.gov/about/reports/Documents/NTSB_FY2017_Budget.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. OPM [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.ntsb.gov/news/speeches/CHart/Pages/bio\_hart.aspx [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. <http://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/private/person.asp?personId=69355712&privcapId=4772236&previousCapId=4772236&previousTitle=National%20Safety%20Council> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. http://www.ntsb.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/Mark\_Rosenker\_is\_New\_NTSB\_Vice\_Chairman.aspx [↑](#endnote-ref-6)