

WASHTO RESOLUTION 2007-01

Ensuring Full Funding of SAFETEA-LU

WHEREAS, the Administration and the Congressional Budget Office have estimated that the Highway Account of the Federal Highway Trust Fund would have a negative balance at the end of FY 2009 if Congress fully funds SAFETEA-LU ; and

WHEREAS, the obligation levels called for in SAFETEA-LU are necessary to help address rural and urban needs across the country for preservation, capacity and improvement of the surface transportation system; and

WHEREAS, investments in transportation are a significant economic driver, source of jobs, and ensure the quality of life for our citizens; and

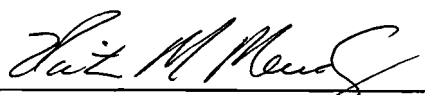
WHEREAS, the cost of materials and of highway construction has risen drastically and the transportation industry has seen an erosion of the purchasing power of revenues supporting the Federal Highway Trust Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office added transportation program financing and capacity to the High Risk List of federal programs in January 31, 2007 and advised the Congress and the U. S. Department of Transportation of their action; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration's FY 2008 budget submission proposes to fund approximately \$122 million annually in certain NHTSA programs out of the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund even though those programs are only authorized to be funded out of the General Fund, further weakening the balance in the Highway Account; and,

WHEREAS, crediting the Federal Highway Trust Fund balance with interest on its balance from the date of passage of SAFETEA-LU and using general funds instead of the Federal Highway Trust fund, and averting unauthorized expenditures from the Fund are short term actions that would strengthen the Federal Highway Trust Fund balance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, that Congress should promptly enact legislation to improve the short term balance of the Federal Highway Trust Fund so that SAFETEA-LU can be fully funded while ensuring that the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund would not have a negative balance at the end of FY 2009.



Victor M. Mendez
WASHTO President

05/04/07

Date