

Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO)

Resolution No. 1-08

Support for the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission
(Commission)

Whereas, SAFETEA-LU established the Commission and charged it with analyzing future highway and transit needs and the finances of the Highway Trust Fund and making recommendations regarding alternative approaches to financing transportation infrastructure; and

Whereas, its final product will be a report that provides both analysis and recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

Whereas, the Commission released its interim report, "The Path Forward," in February 2008, which identified three main problems about the current surface transportation funding approach:

- Revenue is insufficient to maintain the national network and build needed improvements to the system;
- Current funding mechanisms and levels of revenue are not closely linked to use of the transportation system, allowing demand and costs to grow faster than revenue; and
- Critical components of the current approach to investing transportation revenue are not structurally driven toward cost effectiveness, dissipating the effectiveness of existing revenue; and

Whereas, the Commission is conducting an investigation and study of future highway needs, future transit needs, and current and projected Federal Highway Trust Fund ("HTF") revenues, taking into account the impact of possible changes in public vehicular choice, fuel use, or travel alternatives upon the HTF; and

Whereas, WASHTO is comprised of member states from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, all of which are experiencing the deleterious effects of an increasingly unreliable federal transportation program.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that WASHTO members urge the Commission to investigate all possible means of financing transportation infrastructure that plans for a future in addition to the current fuel tax system, ties revenue to system use, provides

long-term options for both high- and low-population density states and addresses the need for connectivity, seeks intelligent investment complemented by better operation of the system, reduces earmarks, set-a-sides and inflexible funding categories, provides clear national goals and purposes and provides for States control and flexibility over the objectives, strategies and approaches regarding how these goals are met.

Approved July 21, 2008
WASHTO Board of Directors

Attest


Ju Secretary-Treasurer