

**WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS**

Resolution 4-12

**Title: U.S. House and Senate Conference Agreement on Reauthorization of Highway and
Transit Programs**

WHEREAS, reauthorization of the federal-aid highway and transit programs under SAFETEA-LU expired on September 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the federal-aid highway and transit programs are operating under a ninth short term extension which lasts through June 30, 2012; and

WHEREAS, State transportation agencies need the stability and certainty of a multi-year reauthorization program in order to commit to moving forward with major capital projects;

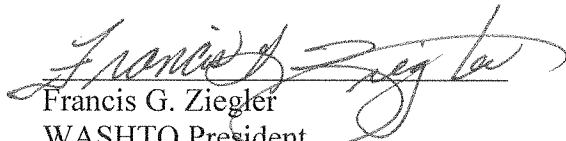
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the AASHTO Board of Directors urges the U.S. House and Senate conferees to reach agreement on a conference report which incorporates the following key policy components –

- Continued respect for the primary role of State and local governments in investment decisions that meet their diverse needs
- Expanded flexibility to State and local governments to determine how and where to deploy investment in order to maximize the use of scarce resources
- Consolidation of federal highway and transit program categories to better focus on programs of national significance
- Greater accountability through a state-driven performance-based, outcome-driven planning and investment process
- Further expedite the project delivery process with additional reforms to the environmental review and approval process
- Enhance the ability to leverage scarce resources by supplementing the traditional base funding with expanded financial tools such as an expanded TIFIA program, tax credit bonds, enhancement of tolling and further support Public-Private Partnerships, and State Infrastructure Banks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, AASHTO Staff is directed to work with the Congress to take all measures necessary consistent with AASHTO policy to extend the federal highway

and transit programs, maintain or increase current funding levels for the programs, and do so in a way that sustains contract authority.

Adopted by the WASHTO Board of Directors on May 20, 2012.


Francis G. Ziegler
WASHTO President

5/20/12
Date