

**Western Association of State Highway
and Transportation Officials**

Resolution 7-04

FHWA Strategic Plan Must More Fully Recognize the Role of States

Whereas, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed a Strategic Plan, which includes Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goal statements, which will be implemented through performance measures oriented toward the outcomes of transportation investments made through state and local transportation programs; and

Whereas, Federal law has long provided that the Federal-aid highway program is a “federally assisted State program” (23 U.S.C. 145) in which the FHWA neither selects nor implements projects; and

Whereas, FHWA’s proposed Mission Statement does not distinguish States from other unnamed “partners” of the FHWA in delivering the Federal-aid highway program; and

Whereas, State governments are extremely well qualified to deliver transportation services within the framework of the Federal program consistent with each State’s unique public involvement-based planning and programming process; and

Whereas, “performance measures” should not be used by the Federal Government as a means of restricting the authority and flexibility of State transportation officials, of complicating or further regulating the program, or creating additional data collection burdens on States; and

Whereas, AASHTO has recommended, in Resolution PR-7-96, that USDOT “abandon *its* efforts to impose a national transportation measurement system because the performance of each State’s transportation system is best measured within the framework of its individual State goals and policies;

Now, therefore resolved by WASHTO; that

FHWA revise its Strategic Plan Components so that

- States are recognized by FHWA as the principal agent in the delivery of the Federal-aid highway program;
- Reducing regulation of and funding ways to give greater flexibility to States with respect to delivery of Federal surface transportation assistance programs is adopted as a policy of FHWA which will include performance measures; and
- Any performance measures adopted by FHWA concern FHWA's own performance, and do not in any way operate so as to restrict State authority or flexibility or impose undue reporting or information collection burdens on hard-pressed State governments, or seek to impose "one-size-fits-all" measurements or solutions on the various States; and

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the leaders of transportation committees in the U.S. Congress.

Approved March 30, 2004
WASHTO Board of Directors

Attest

Secretary-Treasurer