

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

Resolution 12-97

Resolution on Alternative Transportation Financing Initiative

Whereas, the need for investment for preserving and improving the nation's transportation system is at an all time high; and

Whereas, transportation investments have traditionally been funded through user fees, especially the federal, state and local gas taxes; and

Whereas, the gas tax, while having served the national well in funding the development of a world class transportation system, has some inherent limitations for the future including the inability of the gas tax to keep up with inflation or growth in travel due to growing fuel efficiency; the increasing likelihood of widespread use of alternative fuels not too long into the future; and the growing need for multimodal transportation investments that may not be able or appropriate to be funded through the gas tax, and

Whereas, the growing levels of unmet transportation needs due to inadequate revenues threatens the health of the future economy and the quality of life across the United States; and

Whereas, individual states are limited in their ability to effect change in how transportation is funded, and any significant change would be most successful if it were a result of a joint effort among the states and the federal government; and

Whereas, AASHTO and FHWA recently sponsored a research project through the National Cooperative Highway Research Program entitled "Alternatives to Motor Fuel Taxes for Financial Surface Transportation Improvements" and

Whereas, major conclusions of the research state that motor fuel taxes will remain important for the next three decades, but units of government responsible for providing transportation infrastructure should seek a smooth transition to alternative sources by phasing in promising new sources as elements of revenue programs, and

Whereas, fees and taxes based on VMT and other alternatives methods will depend on political acceptability and technological developments;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that The Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) does agree to demonstrate leadership by pursuing an initiative to foster changes in how transportation is financed across the United States. Such an initiative would