

AASHTO LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA FOR 2017

For Consideration by Congress and the Trump Administration

WHAT IS AASHTO?

- The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials—AASHTO—is a 102-year-old nonprofit association of the nation’s state departments of transportation (state DOTs).
- AASHTO’s membership includes the transportation departments of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Its Board of Directors is comprised of CEOs of each state DOT.

STATE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION...

- Underpin economic activities enabled by passenger and freight movement as the primary stewards of our nation’s highway infrastructure:
 - Design, build, maintain, and operate key highway assets, ranging from 7 percent of public road miles in California to 89 percent in West Virginia
 - Own and operate the Interstate Highway System which handles nearly 25 percent of total vehicle miles traveled annually and 40 percent of truck traffic even though it comprises only 1.2 percent of total public road miles
- Protect the environment by:
 - Addressing air and water pollution
 - Preserving parklands and wetlands
 - Creating a sustainable and resilient transportation system
- Ensure safety through:
 - Governors’ highway safety representatives
 - Motor vehicle licensing and registration
 - State highway patrol
 - Truck safety regulation
- Manage a multimodal transportation network by:
 - Investing in public transportation (larger share than Federal government) and non-motorized travel modes
 - Operating public transportation systems, short line railroads, airports, and harbors

AASHTO’S STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

- Provide value to members
- Provide innovative technical and professional services and products
- Be a leader in national transportation policy development
- Communicate the value of transportation and transportation investments

AASHTO LEADERSHIP

- 52-member Board of Directors which sets Association policy
- 2016–2017 President: David Bernhardt, Commissioner, Maine DOT
- 2016–2017 Vice President: John Schroer, Commissioner, Tennessee DOT
- Secretary/Treasurer: Carlos Braceras, Executive Director, Utah DOT
- Executive Director: Bud Wright

AASHTO'S POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1. Implement Sustainable, Long-Term Funding for Transportation Investment:** AASHTO informs and supports increased federal transportation investment based on its evaluation of [38 possible transportation revenue mechanisms](#) and lessons learned from a multitude of [state-level revenue efforts since 2012](#).
- 2. Strengthen the State-Administered, Federally-Assisted National Transportation Program:** With more flexibility, States have the [capacity to assume more federal authorities](#) to speed up project delivery and to invest in every area of our country. AASHTO is a proven partner in [mobilizing all states](#) to implement major transportation infrastructure initiatives both in the short- and long-term.
- 3. Ensure Economic Productivity and Competitiveness Through a Seamless Nationwide Freight Network:** States and their private-sector partners need both the funding and policy tools to meet their [freight investment needs](#), anticipate new trade patterns, and accommodate growth in freight volumes.
- 4. Deliver Balanced, Multimodal Mobility Solutions:** AASHTO supports a robust, national multimodal transportation network that serves both [urban](#) and [rural](#) areas in passenger and freight movement by [defining flexible approaches](#) to transportation facility design.
- 5. Streamline Regulations, Including on Permitting and Approvals:** AASHTO recognizes opportunities to improve the federal regulatory process by reducing complexity and burden for project sponsors. For example, under the [Center for Environmental Excellence](#), AASHTO has partnered with the U.S. Department of Transportation since 2001 to advance [streamlined project delivery](#) and environmental stewardship.
- 6. Honor Authorized Funding Levels in Appropriations:** The FAST Act provided annual increases in surface transportation funding through 2020. Transportation appropriations should fully honor highway, highway safety, transit, and passenger rail programs at [authorized amounts](#).
- 7. Further Enhance Decision-Making Based on Performance:** AASHTO supports implementing statutorily authorized [performance management frameworks](#) for highway safety, bridge and pavement, system performance, and freight in partnership with the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#).
- 8. Ensure Accountability for the Lifecycle:** AASHTO promotes sound and innovative asset management practices through an [interactive portal to connect experts and practitioners](#) from around the nation.
- 9. Reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration Programs:** [AASHTO](#) supports a multiyear FAA bill that provides more flexibility to fund multimodal projects and maintains the non-primary airport grant program, Essential Air Service Program, and Small Community Air Service Development Program.
- 10. Foster and Implement Cutting-Edge Innovation:** In addition to hosting the [National Operations Center of Excellence](#), AASHTO [advances peer-to-peer innovation](#) by seeking out proven advancements in transportation technology, then investing resources necessary to accelerate their adoption by agencies nationwide.
- 11. Leverage Revenue Streams and Harnessing Private Capital:** In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, AASHTO established the [BATIC Institute: An AASHTO Center for Excellence](#) in 2014, which enhances taxpayer value from transportation investment by promoting public sector capacity building in the analysis, understanding, and use of project finance techniques including greater application of private capital.
- 12. Ensure Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability:** AASHTO's [Resilient and Sustainable Transportation Systems Program](#) assists state DOTs to better understand the potential effects of extreme weather by identifying a range of strategies and options for adaptation and mitigation.
- 13. Utilize Tax Credits to Incentivize Infrastructure Investment:** AASHTO provided [indispensable expertise](#) to Congress that helped to develop the extremely successful Build America Bonds program in 2009, which included both direct-pay and tax credit features to supplement the tax-exempt bond market.