



American Association of
State Highway and
Transportation Officials

May 12, 2003

James C. Codell III, President
Secretary
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

John Horsley
Executive Director

The Honorable Mark R. Kennedy
U.S. House of Representatives
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

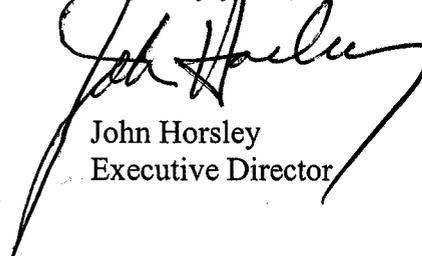
Dear Congressman Kennedy:

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) represents the transportation departments in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. We congratulate you on your legislation, H.R. 1767, the "Freeing Alternative for Speedy Transportation Act" (FAST Act), which we believe provides states with additional financing flexibility. Your bill is consistent with AASHTO's recommendations for expanding federal transportation program and project financing options to enable states to craft financing packages to meet their unique transportation investment requirements.

Both AASHTO and the U.S. Department of Transportation have recently estimated that in order to maintain existing conditions and performance, we need to invest fifty percent greater resources in our highway system than we are today. The impacts of this chronic underinvestment are seen in congested highway corridors serving both commuters and intercity freight. Expanded toll and congestion pricing approaches will enhance our ability to fund much needed additional highway capacity, which is needed along with complementary operational, transit and demand management strategies.

As we move toward reauthorization of the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) we look forward to working with you on innovative approaches to meeting our nation's highway and transit needs.

Sincerely yours,



John Horsley
Executive Director

POLICY RESOLUTION PR-13-03

TITLE: EMPOWERING STATES WITH ADDITIONAL TOOLS TO UNLOCK CONGESTED INTERSTATES

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2003, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century, TEA-21, the legislation authorizing the federal surface transportation program, will expire; and

WHEREAS, the hallmark of the TEA-21 legislation, and its predecessors has been providing states the program flexibility they need to address our nation's transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that as Congress works to reauthorize the federal surface transportation program it must address the growing crisis of congestion that is threatening the free flow of people and commerce across the national highway system and;

WHEREAS, at this time of increasing demands on our highway system, creative and innovative funding options are essential for accelerating highway construction projects the motoring public expects,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AASHTO supports the bipartisan Freeing Alternatives for Speedy Transportation Act, FAST Act, which provides states and local governments with the flexibility to fund much needed additional highway capacity;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AASHTO urges Congress to include in its reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program this legislation which empowers states with new tools to address their ever increasing transportation system needs.