U.S. Department of Transportation Transition Team Recommendations

Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America), November 24, 2008

Focus on Solving High Priority Challenges: Our nation's transportation system is facing significant challenges that must be addressed in the next federal surface transportation bill.

- ***Safety*** – Before the day is over 113 people will die on our nation's roads – the equivalent of a fully-loaded 737 crashing every day – and thousands more will be injured. Traffic accidents cost our economy more than $230 billion each year in addition to the untold human suffering.
- ***Traffic Congestion*** – The average rush-hour commuter spends nearly a full work week stuck in traffic each year, wasting a combined 7.9 million gallons of gasoline daily and harming our quality of life, the environment, and economic productivity to the tune of $78 billion annually.
- ***Financing Transportation*** – The cost estimates for needed infrastructure investments range from $225 – $340 billion per year. The current fuel tax-based funding system can no longer keep up with the costs to maintain our infrastructure and provide efficient and reliable transportation services.

Reauthorization Priorities: We must utilize all of the tools at our disposal to optimize the performance of our nation's transportation system. ITS technologies are available today that can prevent accidents before they happen, improve the flow of traffic to reduce congestion and freight bottlenecks, provide more effective incident and emergency response, reduce energy use and emissions, and enable innovative financing options. ITS solutions are more cost-effective and consumer friendly than building new infrastructure, which is expensive and not always possible in urban areas. Examples of ITS include:

  - Vehicle and intersection collision avoidance systems;
  - Real-time traffic, transit and multimodal traveler information;
  - Transportation consumer applications including GPS-equipped cell phones and navigational devices;
  - Intelligent traffic signals and parking systems that improve traffic flow and driver convenience;
  - Open-road tolling technologies that reduce congestion while enabling HOT lanes and variable road pricing;
  - Electronic reservation and payment systems for multimodal transportation and consumer services;
  - Weigh-in-motion truck inspections and commercial vehicle safety systems;
  - GPS-based data that enables 21st century financing options like mileage-based user fees; and
  - Active traffic management systems that use real-time transportation, roadway, and weather data to improve traffic flow and incident response, provide multimodal travel choices, and reduce energy use and emissions.

- ***Improving Performance Through Accountability*** – Transportation funding should be linked to aggressive performance goals to ensure that the public investment results in measurable improvements in transportation systems and services. Performance can be effectively measured and improved using ITS data and technologies.
- ***Unlocking ITS Solutions to Enhance Performance*** – Dedicated funding, flexibility, and incentives are critical for enabling transportation agencies and private sector partners to deploy and operate ITS to prevent accidents, reduce congestion and its economic and environmental impacts, and improve system performance.
- ***Bringing Transportation into the Wireless Age*** – A significant investment must be made in the deployment of a nationwide communications network between vehicles and the roadway, known as Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII), which will provide the next generation of critical safety, mobility, and consumer applications.
- ***Advancing Next Generation Innovations*** – Increased funding is needed for research, development, and demonstration of ITS technologies that hold the promise to solve current and future transportation challenges.

Reinvigorating the U.S. Economy and Auto Industry: ITS solutions should play a central role in new Administration's efforts to spur economic recovery and reinvigorate the U.S. auto industry. Investing in ITS will stimulate job creation across multiple sectors, including green jobs, high-tech, automotive, IT, consumer electronics, manufacturing, and many related industries. The benefits of ITS implementation – less congestion, fewer accidents, improved mobility, and reduced energy consumption and emissions – all lead to increased productivity, a more efficient and environmentally friendly transportation system, and a stronger, more globally competitive economy for American workers and businesses. Any economic stimulus legislation should make a commitment to investing in "intelligent" vehicles and infrastructure.