



Western Governors' Association Policy Resolution 08-01

Funding the National Highway System

A. BACKGROUND

1. Maintaining the West's transportation infrastructure (highway, transit, and rail) is critical to continued economic growth, quality of life, safety, and the environment. Because of the vast distances the infrastructure traverses, the harsh and often fragile environments it passes through and the enormous growth in population and freight traffic, meeting this need is challenging.
2. In 13 years:
 - i. an additional 20 million people will live in the West;
 - ii. total domestic tonnage of freight carried by all U.S. freight systems will have increased 67 percent; and
 - iii. international trade volumes will have doubled leading to more semi-trucks on the highways in the West.
3. Reports over the last few years document that overall investment in transportation infrastructure is not keeping pace with needed repairs, modernization and expansion of capacity.
4. Compounding this situation for highway and transit infrastructure, current projected receipts of monies into the federal Highway Trust Fund will be insufficient to meet target funding levels Congress established just two and one-half years ago.
5. Federal funding is an essential component of the national effort to invest in highways and transit for national security, the good of the economy and personal mobility.

B. GOVERNORS' POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Federal Government should respond to this threat to economic prosperity and personal mobility by promptly passing legislation, early in 2008 to ensure the Highway Trust fund can support funding of highway and transit programs for FY 2009 at the levels called for in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act passed by Congress and signed by the President in 2005.
2. For the period after FY 2009, the Western Governors support continuing a strong Federal funding role in highways and transit, consistent with growing needs to

preserve and expand the transportation network to meet economic and personal mobility needs.

C. GOVERNORS' MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE

1. The Western Governors' Association will transmit this resolution to the President and to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the relevant Congressional committees.