

AASHTO President Larry “Butch” Brown,

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Emphasis Areas

- **Authorization and Rescissions**

Despite the crisis haunting our economy, the nation needs to reconsider its future by crafting a new vision of transportation. AASHTO must work closely with all the states and stakeholders in bringing to the table a strong surface transportation bill which extends six years from the time of passage. This bill must begin moving the nation toward a more integrated transportation system by committing to the states the ability to rely upon long-term funding to deliver multiyear projects.

There is an implicit trust in the federal government regarding transportation funding. The Interstate System is over 50 years old, funded largely through federal and state partnership. But if future funding commitment by the Federal Government is unpredictable because of the threat of rescissions, states could suffer from limitations in how they deliver programs. We must eliminate the practice of these rescissions to avoid the disruption of planned multiyear investment in every state.

- **Environment and Sustainability**

Transportation agencies must look at every opportunity to “be green.” This means looking at retrofitting our fleets to operate on “greener fuels”, truck stop electrification, reducing energy wasteful practices and our carbon footprint, and ensuring that all projects are done without environmental degradation. The focus on transit and passenger movements will remain critical, as will discussions on the use and development of cleaner engines. Understanding how transportation needs may change, we must support such power generation projects as solar and wind energy, which may require specialized moves of equipment; regional permitting; and oversize, overweight shipments.

- **Transconomy: Freight Transportation + Economy = Jobs**

Under my presidency, we will breathe new life into an old-fashioned term—interstate commerce—and be prepared to convince others that this remains one of the foundations of the federal government’s obligations for transportation investment. Given the uncertain timing of the economic recovery, I will stress continuing support of commercial freight movements as a critical component of our national infrastructure improvements and policy, and this will include all modes: trucking, rail, air, barge, and maritime shipping.

- **Education: Explaining Transportation in Ways People Value**

To succeed in communicating the importance of transportation, we must talk about the ways it affects people’s lives. Transportation is really about school buses and education, emergency care and first responders, consumers, commuters, truckers, and vacationers. All are a part of the growing demands for transportation which we must provide.