**Administrative Resolution AR-7-16**

**Title: Clearview Font**

**WHEREAS**, On January 25, 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced in the Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 15, pg. 4083-4084, the termination of an alternative letter style, Clearview™, on traffic control devices effective 30 days from publication; and

**WHEREAS**, The use of this alternative letter style was authorized on September 2, 2004, under the provisions of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD) for Interim Approval for the Use of Clearview Font on Positive Contrast Legends on Guide Signs (IA-5); and

**WHEREAS**, The FHWA Handbook for Designing Roadways for the Aging Population (June 2014) states that Clearview Font in conjunction with micro prismatic retroreflective sheeting should be considered because it may further enhance positive contrast legends if used appropriately; and

**WHEREAS**, The FHWA has set a high standard for expecting thorough and well-designed research before considering the modification of specific traffic control devices or elements of said devices; and

**WHEREAS**, The Interim Approval for the Use of Clearview Font on Positive Contrast Legends on Guide Signs (IA-5) cites four studies showing benefit of Clearview while the Federal Register notice references only one study citing Clearview provides no benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, Some research has demonstrated increased legibility distances and improved legibility for older drivers during the night time when challenges increase for drivers through the use of Clearview Font, without increasing font size or significantly the overall sign size; and

**WHEREAS**, Clearview font reduces the halation of highway sign legends when using brighter retroreflective sign sheeting; and

**WHEREAS**, The Federal Register notice implies inconsistent sign design practices are caused by Clearview although no evidence was provided; and

**WHEREAS**, During any sign implementation, inconsistencies can be found in the sign design process; and

**WHEREAS**, The Federal Register notice cites research of Clearview font in negative contrast color orientations (dark legend on lighter background, such as for regulatory and warning signs) showing no improvement and significantly degraded legibility of the sign although the Interim Approval did not allow the use of Clearview on negative contrast signs; and

**WHEREAS**, Some roadway agencies have invested and used Clearview font for over ten years with no known negative impacts on the motoring public; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, AASHTO respectfully requests FHWA to reinstate the Interim Approval for the Use of Clearview Font on Positive Contrast Legends on Guide Signs (IA-5) and be it further,

**RESOLVED**, AASHTO requests FHWA to establish a task force to address the concerns cited in the Federal Register and provide a recommendation for each; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, AASHTO requests FHWA to fully examine any potential termination of an Interim Approval, in coordination with other interested stakeholders.