



**RESOLUTION# TR-2019-01**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LONG-TERM FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

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**WHEREAS**, The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference (CSG-ERC) recognizes that transportation infrastructure is vital to economic development, job creation; mobility, and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, The safe and efficient transport of people, goods, and services depends on a safe, reliable, and environmentally sound surface transportation system; and

**WHEREAS**, The need for long-term enhanced investment in infrastructure is clearly demonstrated by the ever increasing number of deficient roads and bridges found across the nation's aging system; and

**WHEREAS**, Congestion continues to build on our nation's highways, bridges, railways, and airways negatively impacting the economy and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, The Highway Trust Fund (HTF) can no longer fully sustain the vast needs of the system and continues to be regularly threatened with insolvency without a long-term, sustainable funding stream; and

**WHEREAS**, Transit systems, both rural and urban, are unique assets of the region's transportation system; and

**WHEREAS**, Travel and tourism, especially with regard to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, are critical components of the region's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, The rail system (both passenger and freight) is an integral part of the region's and the nation's transportation system, as well as a key to economic vitality and mobility in the region, the nation, and beyond our borders; and

**WHEREAS**, Recent events have demonstrated the ever growing need to focus on rail safety, in particular the transport of energy materials; and

**WHEREAS**, States across the country are endeavoring to find alternate solutions for supplementing federal investment, such as public-private partnerships, indexing the gas tax against inflation, tolling, and mileage-based user fees; and

**WHEREAS**, Transportation remains a federal-state partnership and the current federal surface

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Sen. Joe Scarnati, President Pro Tempore, PA, Co-Chair  
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Wendell M. Hannaford, Director



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transportation (highways, bridges, transit, and rail) policies are in need of enactment of a new long-term authorization; and

**WHEREAS**, Extreme weather events in the Northeast and around the nation in recent years have painfully demonstrated how fragile the infrastructure is, and how much it is depended upon; and

**WHEREAS**, Rapidly emerging transportation technologies including autonomous, self-driving vehicles and the connected vehicle environment require a robust, underlying technological platform that can provide consistent, interoperable, and safe operations for all users;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** That the Executive Committee of the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference fully supports the enactment of long-term federal surface transportation legislation that will establish policies to support investments to maintain and improve the infrastructure; increase system mobility, reliability, and safety, and will enhance the environment; while also improving our nation's ability to compete in the global market;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Executive Committee of the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference supports:

1. Strong federal investment in mega-projects that are in the state, provincial, regional, and national interest;
2. Increased investment in rural and urban transit systems – especially those that stress transit-oriented development (TOD);
3. Increased investment in the planning, design, construction of facilities, and high-speed rail, where appropriate, that will enhance intercity passenger rail service across the nation and between the United States and Canada;
4. Investment in programs and projects that will link intercity passenger rail to other modes of transportation in a seamless, efficient manner;
5. Reauthorization of critical Federal-State Committees including:
  - a. The State-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee, Sec. 11204
  - b. The Northeast Corridor Commission, Sec. 11305
  - c. Operation Lifesaver, Inc., and
  - d. The Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee;
6. National freight transportation policies that fully acknowledge the roles and responsibilities of the motor carrier; and emphasize safety and mobility; including safer and more efficient transport of hazardous materials across state, national, and international borders;
7. A prioritized federal focus and increased investment in the region's aging bridges;
8. Facilitating states and groups of states as they develop alternative sources of funding and financing transportation such as public-private partnerships and mileage-based user fees, where appropriate;
9. Using lessons learned in tolling interoperability, investing in research, deployment, and



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operation of user- friendly fare collection systems that will enhance multi-jurisdiction travel;

10. Significant annual federal investment in surface transportation border infrastructure;
11. An emphasis on extreme weather retrofitting of existing facilities in highway, bridge, transit, port, and rail programs;
12. A focus on the importance of investing in the region's infrastructure as it pertains to travel and tourism, within the continental United States and Canada and especially as related to the economic well-being of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands;
13. Increased investment in new technologies that support the improved efficiency and safety of our existing and future transportation infrastructure network.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this resolution be communicated to federal elected officials; the governors of the Northeast states; state legislature speakers and senate presidents; and legislative leaders of the Eastern Canadian provinces; as well as trade associations, and others concerned with surface transportation policy.

Adopted July 31 at the CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Policy Forum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania