

Policy Resolution PR-2-19
Title: AASHTO's Vision for Reauthorization

Whereas, America is poised to dramatically improve the national transportation network in ways that will improve the safety, mobility, health, and economic well-being of all Americans;

Whereas, From the very beginning of our developing nation, we have valued investment in our surface transportation infrastructure, starting with rivers, harbors, and post roads, and later taking major leaps through canals, the transcontinental railroad, and the Interstate Highway System;

Whereas, A safe, well-functioning, and resilient system is the foundation of a strong economy and quality of life benefits such as access to employment, education, recreational, and health services opportunities;

Whereas, Ensuring safety of Americans using our surface transportation system remains the foremost priority for each state department of transportation (state DOT), as 36,750 lives lost on our roadways and work zones in 2018—including pedestrians and users of motorized and non-motorized vehicles—is wholly and totally unacceptable;

Whereas, Every action that state DOTs take serves to provide the highest possible quality of life for all Americans by improving access, public health, and both built and natural environments;

Whereas, State DOTs strive to deliver the most effective and efficient surface transportation system that strengthens and grows the economy by increasing productivity, enhancing jobs and labor market accessibility, opening new markets for businesses, and optimizing supply chain efficiency for freight movement; and

Whereas, It is the interconnected national transportation system—with states as a principal owner and operator of a multimodal surface transportation infrastructure—that has enabled the United States to become the most vibrant and powerful nation in history; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That AASHTO's vision for policy recommendations are founded upon transportation serving as the key enabler for a higher purpose: to provide the safest system possible, highest possible quality of life, and most robust economic opportunities for every American;

Resolved, That a well-funded, multiyear surface transportation reauthorization on time by September 30, 2020, is absolutely necessary to actualize AASHTO's reauthorization goals that serve Americans; and

Resolved, That given the strong bipartisan support from the American public for robust infrastructure investment, it is time for the President and Congress to take bold action on this consensus national priority.