

Policy Resolution PR-11-19
Title: AASHTO Reauthorization Policy Theme 8: Support Research and Development

Whereas, To build, maintain, and expand its vast multimodal transportation system, our nation has long committed to and relied on the fruits of research—including innovations in planning, materials, construction methods, system operation, organizational effectiveness, and many other areas;

Whereas, Innovation and research allow state agencies to efficiently and effectively deliver a safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation system while continuously improving facilities and services;

Whereas, While the federal government's support and funding for transportation research has been steady over many decades, by any measure—across industries or across countries—our nation invests very modest resources in transportation research and innovation;

Whereas, A substantial return on investment from smarter, better, and longer-lasting transportation can easily be documented with factors such as more durable infrastructure and improved operations, and;

Whereas, Additional benefits extend far beyond those that are easily quantified, including lives saved, an environmentally responsible transportation system, and improved quality of life for our citizens whose daily lives depend on the efficient movement of people and goods; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress should invest \$1 million for scoping a third Strategic Transportation Research Program, which would better equip state DOTs to adapt and fully integrate technology and innovation into the transportation network that they own and operate (Issue RI-2);

Resolved, That Congress should reauthorize the Transit Cooperative Research Program which promotes best practices and facilitate the deployment of new technologies, thereby enhancing increases in operational efficiency (Issue PT-5); and

Resolved, That Congress should reestablish the National Cooperative Freight Research Program to assist states in their delivery of freight transportation projects with funding beyond the amount prescribed for the federally managed Research, Technology, and Education programs and State Planning and Research-funded programs (Issue FR-4).