

Transportation Officials Call for Comprehensive Reform

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has developed a three point plan to address our nation's multi-modal freight transportation needs. AASHTO is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association that represents state departments of transportation in all 50 states.

AASHTO would like freight to be a priority in the next federal transportation reauthorization, and states that it's important to get both federal and state legislators behind these goals.

It is important to make sure that the first and last mile of freight movement can happen in order to compete globally. Investing in the movement of freight is also about job creation across the economy because all industries rely upon being able to move their freight.

AASHTO's plan to address the nation's freight transportation needs entails the following three points:

1. Expand the capacity of the Interstate Highway System by upgrading and expanding lane-miles on the interstate system and to provide access to key port and intermodal facilities.
2. Create and fund a national freight program that could include multiple state freight corridor organizations. Develop a multi-state level National Multimodal Strategic Freight Plan that will receive annual appropriations from the federal government totaling \$10 billion. Three billion from the Highway Trust Fund, and \$7 billion through freight fees that are outside the Highway Trust Fund.
3. Invest in intermodal connector improvements. One way to achieve this is to support increased collaboration between states and the railroads on public-private partnerships and federal investment tax credits to finance growing needs on the freight rail network.

More information about this proposal can be found at <http://expandingcapacity.transportation.org>.