

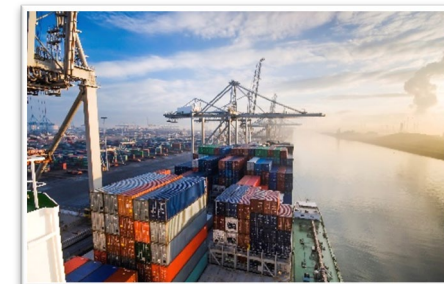
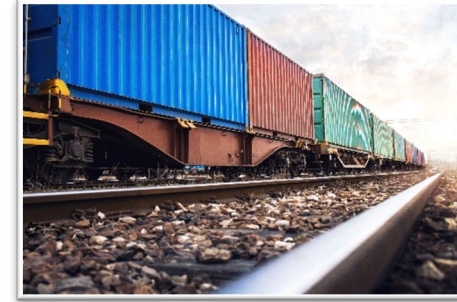
Federal Transportation Update and Outlook

Transportation Librarians Roundtable | July 25, 2024

Susan Howard, AASHTO Director of Policy and Government Relations

What Is AASHTO?

- Nonprofit association
- Founded in 1914
- Members include:
 - Transportation departments of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
 - 50+ Associate Members from federal, state, and local agencies and other countries
- Covers all modes: Aviation, Rail, Highways, Transit, Water, and Active Transportation



2023–2024 Association Leadership



Craig Thompson
President

Secretary,
Wisconsin Department
of Transportation

Garrett Eucalitto
Vice President

Commissioner,
Connecticut Department
of Transportation



Russell McMurry, PE
Treasurer

Commissioner,
Georgia Department of
Transportation

Jim Tymon
Executive Director

AASHTO



2023-2024 AASHTO Presidential Emphasis Areas

Transportation Together: Maximizing Investments, Safety, Workforce



CRAIG THOMPSON
2023-2024 AASHTO President
Secretary, Wisconsin DOT

The thing I've always found most valuable about AASHTO is the way it allows state transportation agencies from across the nation to work together.

AASHTO enables us to learn from one another, to discover new ideas and best practices, and to collaborate in finding strategic approaches to the transportation issues that impact us all.

As I consider emphasis areas for my term as AASHTO president, I want to do more than simply list a few of the important transportation issues of the day. I also want to consider how the capabilities of AASHTO as an organization, and the combined resources and expertise of its members, can be best brought to bear and enable us to work effectively together.

This is an exciting and transformational time in transportation. With historic investment in infrastructure across the nation, innovation reaching every corner of the industry, and technology evolving in unprecedented ways, we are paving the way for the future of mobility. We have the opportunity to apply innovative tools, resources, and practices to save lives. We have the opportunity to strengthen the workforce of today and tomorrow. And we have the opportunity to build a modern and efficient transportation system our citizens deserve.



Maximizing Federal Investments Together

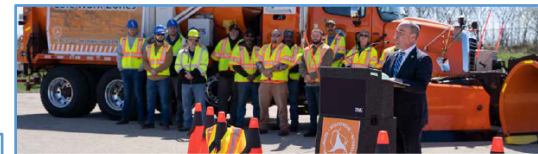
The transportation industry is essential not only to meeting the needs of our everyday lives, it's also a pillar of a prosperous economy and a successful society. By using AASHTO to facilitate our collaborative efforts to get the most out of historic federal investments in infrastructure, improve safety, and develop our workforce, together we can move our transportation system into the future.

As we reach the mid-point of the five-year authorization of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), it is imperative that we work with our federal partners to ensure that the promise of IIJA is fully realized. While there are already transformational projects moving forward, there are also significant challenges that come with the launch of so many new federal programs and the competition for both workforce and material to build projects. We need to work together to express our urgent expectation that the federal government resolve these issues now.

AASHTO members know that investing in transportation will positively impact our economic competitiveness, save lives, improve mobility, and decrease greenhouse gases. At the same time, simply authorizing the expenditure of these funds does not in and of itself accomplish any of these goals. At the end of the day, we need to demonstrate to the American people that government at all levels can work efficiently to apply these historic investments in a way that will positively impact their lives. While the potential of IIJA and other new programs is powerful, so is the inertia if we fail to overcome bureaucratic hurdles and implementation snafus.

The country is watching what we do with this massive opportunity, and we must deliver. AASHTO can play its part by doing the following:

- Ensuring clear lines of communication and providing member input to our federal partners.
- Providing real-time feedback on the impact of federal guidance to state DOTs.
- Sharing strategies on successful applications and approaches to help local communities meet their needs with federal resources.
- Addressing issues that stand in the way of delivering every penny available under IIJA to improve lives and our climate in a way that the public can see and understand.



Safer Together

Today we are experiencing a crisis in which too many users of our transportation system do not make it home safely. It is imperative that we address this crisis using all means and methods at our disposal. Providing all users with safe multi-modal transportation options is our foremost priority. That is why 2024 must be the year that we harness all the data and best practices states have embarked upon to significantly move the needle on safety across the country.

Moving that needle needs to be judged by fewer people dying on our roadways. A transportation network with zero deaths is our goal. Achieving that goal is our shared responsibility and collaborative action offers our best opportunity to achieve it.

Across the country, state DOTs have tremendous efforts underway to improve safety on our transportation system. Together we can build on those efforts, prevent crashes, and save lives by:

- Prioritizing safety for all transportation users across all travel options with an expanded focus on those most vulnerable.
- Providing opportunities to deepen subject-matter experts' awareness of innovative safety-related best practices, resources, and research through knowledge transfer activities.
- Fostering safety culture into all transportation roles through cross-training and communication of safety roles.
- Supporting state DOTs to leverage innovative technology, data, and applications.
- Facilitating implementation of existing, new, and cutting-edge behavioral and engineering safety countermeasures.



Building Our Workforce Together

Our workforce issues are as diverse and multifaceted as our employees themselves. Much of our existing workforce is reaching retirement age, and newer employees are staying for shorter tenures. This is occurring in a context in which all industries are facing fewer candidates, and the impact and reach of technology in the workforce is ever changing. The way things have always been done is no longer a viable option in the face of such transformational change. We must approach our workforce like we are approaching safety, with a sense of urgency.

To strengthen our workforce now and into the future, we need to:

- Develop strategies to establish state DOTs as an employer of choice by identifying innovative ways to attract, retain, engage, develop, and empower talented individuals.
- Share best practices on workforce training, modernization, and reskilling to ensure state DOTs have the right people in the right job, working on the right tasks, at the right time with the right knowledge and skills.
- Support state DOTs' efforts to advance a more equitable transportation system through increased diversity of their own workforce.
- Examine the potentially beneficial impact of artificial intelligence on the state DOT workforce.

Policy and Government Relations

Working with Congressional offices, executive branch agencies, and transportation industry stakeholders to represent the policy interests of all state DOTs:

- Developing and passing of legislation such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Providing state DOT perspectives on implementation of federal transportation programs
- Providing input to federal regulations by agencies
- Building partnerships with peer associations, private sector, federal, state, and local governments, academia, etc.





- Reduce Federal Highway Funding Volatility by Addressing Record-high Levels of August Redistribution
- Improve Administration of IIJA's Discretionary Grant Programs
- Improve Execution of Build America, Buy America to Remove Obstacles to Project Delivery
- Improve Permitting and Railroad Coordination to Deliver Efficient Environmental and Project Outcomes

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Funding Type, FFY 2022-2026		Amount						
Total HTF Contract Authority		\$383 billion						
Advance General Fund Appropriations		\$184.1 billion						
USDOT Total Budget Authority		\$567.1 billion						
AGENCY	In \$ billions (Contract Authority plus General Fund Advance Appropriations)							
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL	AVG
HIGHWAYS/FHWA	49.0	67.7	69.0	70.3	71.5	72.9	351.3	70.3
TRANSIT/FTA	12.8	17.6	17.9	18.2	18.5	18.9	91.2	18.2
RAIL/FRA	2.5	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	66.0	13.2
SAFETY/NHTSA	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	6.7	1.3
SAFETY/FMCSA	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.1	1.0

IIJA Implementation

- New Initiatives and Partnerships
 - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program
- Buy America changes
- Discretionary Grants across all modes
- Policy and program development through Notices of Proposed Rulemaking, Requests for Information, and Requests for Comment
- AASHTO has submitted over 50 comment letters since IIJA's enactment: <https://policy.transportation.org/aashto-comment-letters>

IIJA Reauthorization

- The IIJA will expire on September 30, 2026
- AASHTO has initiated development of state DOTs' reauthorization policy priorities with a goal of having policy recommendations in place a year before the IIJA expires
- Help inform how Congress and the administration shape the follow up to the IIJA
- AASHTO's reauthorization effort will rely on our committees and will be led by AASHTO's Transportation Policy Forum

IIJA Reauthorization

The first phase of our process is underway with the development of 8 topical white papers to cover:

- Carbon Reduction, EV Charging, Resilience
- Funding, Finance, Program Structure
- Performance-based Management, Planning, Data
- Project Delivery, Permitting, Buy America
- Research and Innovation
- Safety
- Transportation System Operations
- Workforce and Equity

2019 Core Principles for Reauthorization

1. Ensure timely reauthorization of a long-term federal surface transportation bill
2. Enact a long-term, sustainable revenue solution for the Highway Trust Fund
3. Increase and prioritize formula-based federal funding to provide to states
4. Increase flexibility, reduce program burdens, and improve project delivery
5. Support and ensure state DOTs' ability to harness innovation and technology

Other Hot Topics

- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Reauthorization
- Freight rail safety
- Improving safety for all road users
- Ensuring development of a resilient transportation network
- Developing the workforce of today and tomorrow

Discussion

