U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SECRETARY MARY PETERS
TO SPEAK AT TRB CHAIRMAN’S LUNCHEON

Mary E. Peters, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, is the featured speaker at the Chairman’s Luncheon of the Transportation Research Board 86th Annual Meeting on January 24, 2007, in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) was established by an act of Congress on October 15, 1966. The mission of the Department is to serve the United States by ensuring a fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system that meets the nation’s vital interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future. Secretary Peters has been invited to share her vision, goals, and plans for the nation’s transportation system.

The Honorable Mary E. Peters is the 15th U.S. Secretary of Transportation. She was nominated by President George W. Bush on September 5, 2006, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 30, 2006. She has spent her career crafting solutions to some of the nation’s toughest transportation challenges.

A fourth-generation Arizonan, Peters served in the Arizona Department of Transportation from 1985 to 2001, working up through the ranks as a contract administrator, Deputy Director for Administration, and Deputy Director. In 1998 she was appointed Director of the agency.

In 2001 President Bush asked Peters to lead the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As FHWA Administrator from 2001 to 2005, she placed special emphasis on finding new ways to invest in road and bridge construction, including innovative public–private partnerships aimed at helping build roads faster and at less expense. She also strongly advocated the use of new technology to reduce construction time; save taxpayer money; and produce safer, longer-lasting roads and highways.

After leaving FHWA, Peters was National Director for Transportation Policy at HDR, Inc., a major engineering firm, where she was responsible for building a management consulting practice and developing public policy initiatives for the firm’s transportation program.

As Secretary of Transportation, Peters is responsible for maintaining a safe, reliable, and
efficient transportation system. The department she heads has a budget of more than $61 billion; employs almost 60,000 people; and oversees air, maritime, and surface transportation missions. In this new role, Peters is applying the same problem-solving skills she has displayed throughout her career to tackle today’s most pressing transportation challenges. Among them are addressing congestion across all modes, improving safety, and responding to strains on traditional sources of funding for transportation programs.

Peters earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Phoenix and attended Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for State and Local Government Executives.

More than 10,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 86th Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC, January 21-25, 2007. The meeting, held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 2,800 presentations in 500 sessions, 75 workshops, and 400 TRB committee meetings covering all aspects of transportation.

TRB's mission is to promote innovation and progress in transportation through research. In an objective and interdisciplinary setting, TRB facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners; stimulates research and offers research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation. A major focal point of TRB's activities, the Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest.

Organized in 1920, TRB is a division of the National Academies, which include the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. The nation turns to the National Academies for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide.

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