FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHAEL F. TRENTACOSTE SELECTED BY TRB AS THE 2017 W.N. CAREY JR. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

WASHINGTON -- In recognition of his outstanding service to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and transportation research, Michael F. Trentacoste is the 2017 recipient of the W.N. Carey Jr. Distinguished Service Award. Trentacoste retired as the U.S. Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA’s) Associate Administrator for Research, Development, and Technology on Sept. 30, 2017. The Carey Award—named in honor of W.N. Carey Jr., TRB’s Executive Director from 1967 to 1980—recognizes individuals who have given leadership and distinguished service to TRB. The award will be presented on Jan. 10, 2018, at the 97th TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

A tireless advocate for safety, Trentacoste has served as member and then chair of TRB’s Standing Committee on Transportation Safety Management. He has also served as a member of the Technical Activities Division’s Safety Section, which provides general oversight to nine committees and two task forces that propose research, share research findings, sponsor special activities, and provide a forum for transportation professionals to discuss today’s and tomorrow’s safety-related transportation issues. He was the federal liaison to the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) Technical Coordinating Committee for Safety Research that helped oversee SHRP 2’s Naturalist Driving Study, which resulted in the largest collection of data on driving behavior. In addition, Trentacoste has been a key player in development of the strategies designed to ensure that SHRP 2’s research results are implemented. Trentacoste has also been a member and federal liaison to eight other committees, panels, and task forces.

A frequent contributor to TRB’s Executive Committee, Trentacoste has used his more than 40 years of service to the transportation community, including 31 years with FHWA, to help the TRB fulfill its mission and sustain the vitality of its programs. Most recently he has served on the Executive Committee’s Task Force on International Activities and is a member of the Executive Committee’s Centennial Planning Task Force.

As Associate Administrator for Research, Development and Technology, Mr. Trentacoste was responsible for leading a comprehensive national program designed to meet the needs and goals of the highway community and the nation's highway transportation system. In this capacity, he has overseen development of the FHWA’s National Research and Technology Agenda; the agency’s legislative and budget requests; and collaborations with TRB and other domestic and international highway research counterparts. He also served as the Director of the FHWA’s Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center in McLean, Virginia, with responsibility for a yearly budget of $70 million that is used for advanced and applied infrastructure, operations, and safety research and development.
Prior to this appointment, Trentacoste served for 10 years as the Director, Office of Safety Research and Development. He joined FHWA in 1986 and led development of the National Commercial Drivers’ License testing and licensing standards. In 1987, he became Director, Office of Motor Carrier Standards, with responsibility for all commercial and motor carrier rule-making and research activities. He served as Director, Office of Motor Carrier Field Operations and its 500 employees, with responsibility for enforcement of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program to the States.

Trentacoste received his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Manhattan College, and his master’s degree in transportation from Northwestern University. He is a registered civil engineer in the State of New York. He has received numerous performance and honor awards, including the President’s Meritorious Senior Executive Award, the Secretary’s Award for Meritorious Achievement, both the FHWA and the FRA Administrator's Superior Achievement Award, and in 2015, the FHWA Heartland Award.

The mission of TRB is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. Its annual meeting -- a major focal point of TRB's activities -- provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest. Approximately 13,000 policymakers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the 97th TRB Annual Meeting, taking place Jan. 7-11, 2018. The meeting, held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., includes more than 5,000 presentations in more than 800 sessions and workshops covering all aspects of transportation.

TRB is a program unit of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine -- private, nonprofit institutions that provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions related to science, technology, and medicine. The Academies operate under an 1863 congressional charter to the National Academy of Sciences, signed by President Lincoln. For more information, visit http://national-academies.org.

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