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The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

January 10, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARY E. PETERS HONORED AS RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 FRANK TURNER MEDAL FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON -- Mary E. Peters is the 2019 recipient of the Frank Turner Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Transportation. Peters is former U.S. secretary of transportation, administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, and director of the Arizona Department of Transportation. She is currently principal of Mary Peters Consulting Group, LLC. Peters will accept her award on Jan. 16, 2019, at the 98th Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The Frank Turner Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Transportation is a biennial award established in 1998 by a group of friends, colleagues, and admirers of Francis C. (Frank) Turner to honor him and to commemorate his extraordinary accomplishments in the development and construction of the U.S. transportation system. Turner was the initial recipient of the award in January 1999. The award recognizes lifetime achievement in transportation, demonstrated by a distinguished career in the field, professional prominence, and a distinctive, widely recognized contribution to transportation policy, administration, or research.

Peters was selected to receive the 2019 Turner Medal for her influential federal, state, and private sector career and for her accomplishments in enhancing transportation safety, improving the performance of the nation's transportation system, and in the development of new policies and funding sources to support America's transportation system in the 21st century.

Peters' career has been both distinguished and unique. Engaged in transportation for more than 30 years, Peters served as U.S. secretary of transportation from 2006 to 2009 when she provided policy direction and oversight of all federal aviation, surface, and maritime transportation programs. Prior to serving as secretary of transportation, Peters was a senior vice president and national director for transportation policy and consulting for HDR Inc.

Peters also served as the federal highway administrator for the U.S. Department of Transportation from 2001 to 2005, when she was responsible for the federal aid and federal lands highway programs, including the interstate highway system and the national highway system. During her tenure, Peters worked with the administration and Congress to enact the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, which improved and maintained the surface transportation infrastructure in the United States, including the interstate highway system, transit systems, bicycling and pedestrian facilities, and freight rail operations around the nation. She is credited with spearheading efforts to identify new ways to invest in infrastructure, and she was a tireless advocate for the use of new technology to reduce construction time while saving taxpayer dollars, and ensuring safer and longer lasting roads.

Prior to her federal service, she served 16 years in the Arizona Department of Transportation. During her tenure, Peters worked her way up through the ranks as a contract administrator, deputy director for administration, and deputy director. In 1998, then-Governor Jane Hull appointed her director of the agency. While in that position, she was recognized as the Most Influential Person in Arizona Transportation by the Arizona Business Journal.

Peters received the 2004 National Woman of the Year Award from WTS International, a national organization of transportation professionals. She chaired the Standing Committee on Planning and the Asset Management Task Force for the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO), and was a member of the AASHTO 2001 Reauthorization Steering Committee.

Peters served as an ex officio member of the TRB Executive Committee from 2001 to 2005, and as a member of the Subcommittee for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program during that same time period. She also served as chair and member of the NCHRP Project Panel on Administration of Highway and Transportation Agencies, as a member of the NCHRP Oversight Panel on the F-SHRP Project, and as a member of the TCRP Oversight Project Selection Committee.

Peters holds 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.

TRB's [98th Annual Meeting](#) takes place Jan. 13-17, 2019, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C. The meeting covers all transportation issues, with 5,000 presentations in more than 800 sessions. A number of sessions and workshops will focus on the meeting's spotlight theme, Transportation for a Smart, Sustainable, and Equitable Future. The meeting is expected to attract more than 13,000 transportation professionals.

The mission of the Transportation Research Board 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.

TRB is part 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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