

Transportation 2020

Developing a Nationwide Surface Transportation Program for the Future

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has developed the Transportation 2020 Consensus Program to enlist the participation of transportation interests nationwide in developing a new surface transportation program for the 1990s and beyond. The effort is being coordinated by the AASHTO Task Force on the Consensus Transportation Program, chaired by Charles Miller, Secretary of the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Describing this broad-based effort to develop a new, national transportation program to meet the nation's needs well into the 21st century, Francis B. Francois, AASHTO executive director, said: "The United States is at the threshold of a new era in transportation. The Interstate highway system, which has been the focal point of federal and state transportation programs for the past 30 years, is nearing completion. Ahead lies

the challenge of shaping a new national transportation program to meet tomorrow's needs."

To meet that challenge, Francois explained, the Transportation 2020 program will seek the cooperation of all of the major public and private interest groups associated with transportation issues. Under the program, state and local officials, private industry, and public interest groups will work together to

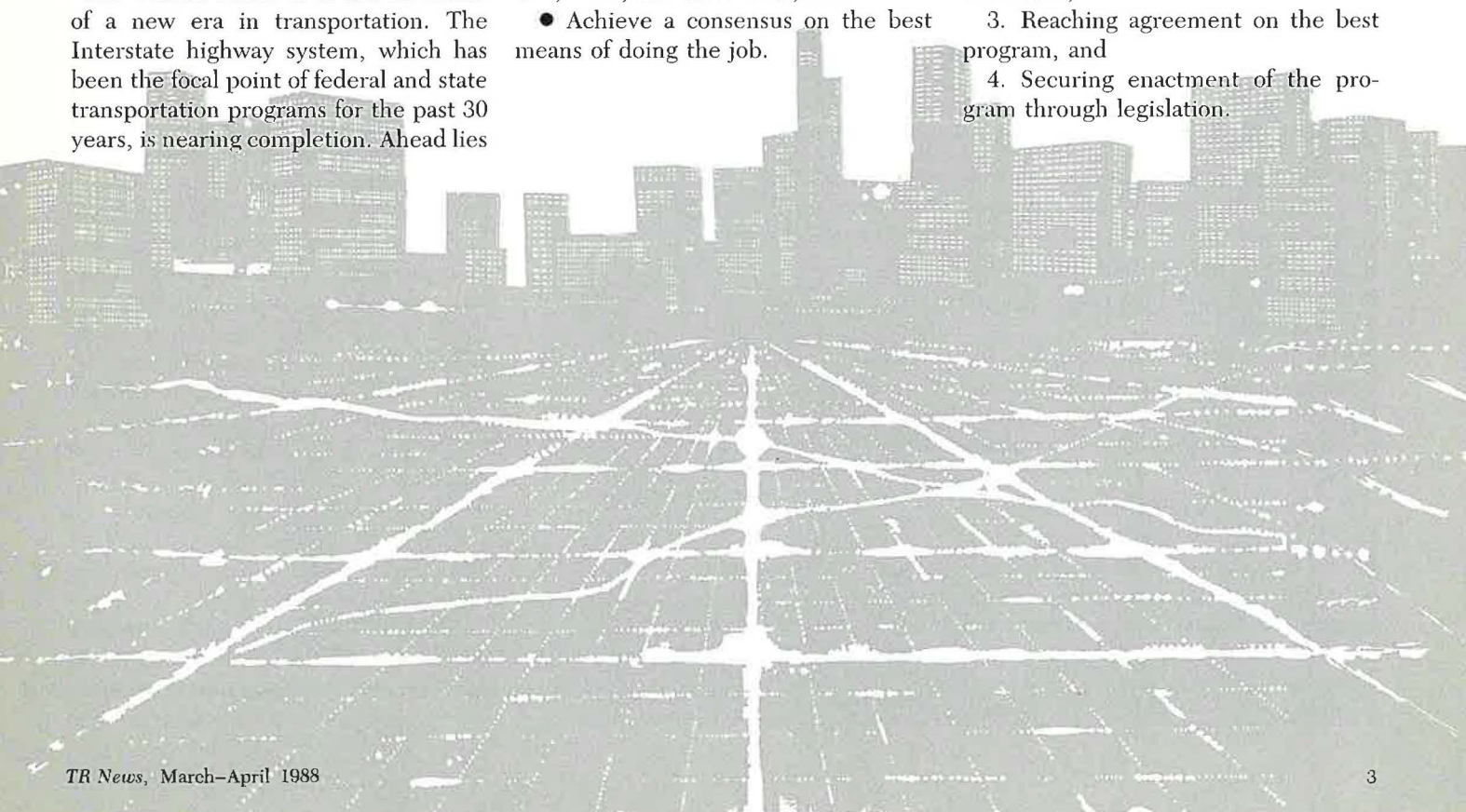
- Assess the nation's surface transportation requirements through the year 2020;
- Develop alternative proposals for meeting those requirements at the federal, state, and local level; and
- Achieve a consensus on the best means of doing the job.

Once that consensus is reached, Francois said, participating organizations will work with the public and elected officials to see that it is put in place through state and federal legislation.

The Transportation 2020 Consensus Program is a multiyear, multifaceted effort, and a number of organizations have been invited to participate in it. The accompanying chart presents the overall process and the organizational relationships involved.

The program will entail four phases over the next several years:

1. Gathering information to identify transportation needs,
2. Defining alternatives for meeting the needs,
3. Reaching agreement on the best program, and
4. Securing enactment of the program through legislation.





At TRB's Annual Meeting in January, a special AASHTO Session: Looking Back to Look Ahead focused on the lessons learned from the history of the Interstate system and their implications for the Transportation 2020 Consensus Program. Howard Rosen, American Public Works Association, presented Findings from the Interstate History Project; seated from left: panel members Francis B. Francois, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; Charles L. Miller, Arizona Department of Transportation and Chairman, AASHTO Transportation 2020 Consensus Program; and Lester P. Lamm, Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility.

Defining Alternatives and Reaching a Consensus

After the facts are gathered, alternatives will be developed for meeting the transportation requirements and reaching a consensus. The information gathered will be transmitted to the Transportation Alternatives Group (TAG), a broad-based organization that has been formed as part of the 2020 program to reach agreement on the shape and direction of the new national surface transportation program. This group is chaired by Thomas W. Bradshaw, Jr., First Boston Corporation. The major public and private interest groups associated with TAG include National Governors' Association, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, National Conference of State Legislatures, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Associa-

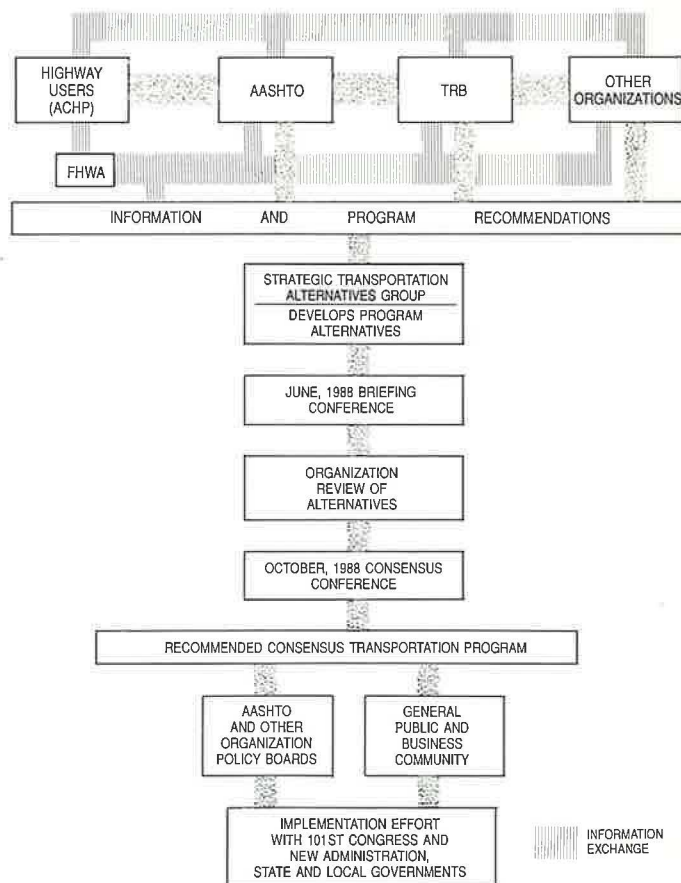
Information Gathering

The information-gathering aspect of the program, which is already under way, includes several key components:

- Identification by transportation professionals in AASHTO and local governments of state and local roadway requirements, transit requirements, and transportation modal interlinks through the year 2020.

- A conference conducted by the Transportation Research Board to address future changes in demographics, transportation technology, and other trends.

- A series of hearings throughout the states, hosted by the Advisory Committee on Highway Policy with the cooperation of the state transportation agencies, designed to obtain from the users of the highway system their perspectives on transportation needs and problems.



Transportation 2020 Consensus Program: overall process and organizational relationships.

tion of Regional Councils, American Public Works Association, American Public Transit Association, American Automobile Association, and American Trucking Associations.

Conference

As part of the information-gathering phase of the 2020 consensus program, the Transportation Research Board will conduct a Conference on Long-Range Trends and Requirements for the Nation's Highway and Public Transit Systems in June in Washington, D.C., with the goal of assessing the nature and level of demand for future highway and public transit services and their role in the nation's future transportation system. Cosponsors of the conference are AASHTO, the Federal Highway Administration, the National Association of Regional Councils, and the Transportation Alternatives Group. For further information, see the accompanying announcement of the TRB conference.

Related Activities

Other information-gathering efforts currently under way include

- Various AASHTO task forces and standing committees are involved in a complex process of determining state and local roadway requirements, transit needs, and intermodal links through the year 2020.

- A series of hearings designed to obtain from the users of the highway system their perspectives on transportation needs and problems is being conducted throughout the states by the AASHTO 2020 Task Force Advisory Committee on Highway Policy (ACHP) with the cooperation of the state transportation agencies. This activity is chaired by Lester P. Lamm, Highway Users Federation, and is scheduled to be completed in spring 1988. (As reported in the ACHP Newsletter: "One common thread has emerged in the pattern of testimony so far: in none of the 18 states are transportation users satisfied with existing levels of service, much

less with what they will be like by the year 2020 without major improvements. Also, to no one's surprise, the condition of transportation facilities is seen as deteriorating, and budgets everywhere are tight.")

The TAG will evaluate the information collected by 2020 program efforts in order to reach agreement on a new national surface transportation program. Assisted by a technical staff, this group is expected to develop alternative proposals for such a program by mid-

1988. The organizations will have several months to review the options and possibly develop others, and will then convene a Consensus Conference in fall 1988 to reach as much agreement as possible on the Transportation 2020 Consensus Program. The results of this conference will flow through the policy-setting processes of the sponsoring organizations to the U.S. Congress, the federal administration, and state and local governments.

A Look at the Future: Year 2020 Conference Set for June

The Transportation Research Board announces the Conference on Long-Range Trends and Requirements for the Nation's Highway and Public Transit Systems, June 22–24, 1988, at the Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C. The conference is one element of the Transportation 2020 Consensus Program that is currently under way in the United States. Funding support for the conference has come from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the Federal Highway Administration, and the National Association of Regional Councils.

The overall objective of the conference is to identify the nature of and level of demand for future highway and public transit services and the role of these services in the nation's future transportation system. Experts will present their views on the potential impacts on future surface transportation systems of a variety of factors including future demographics and life-style, urbanization and suburbanization, new technologies, international business competition and economics, energy demands, technology and communications, commercial freight movements, personal mobility, and institutional arrangements.

Conference proceedings will be published by TRB and widely disseminated to transportation organizations in both the public and the private sector. It is expected that the proceedings will document future transportation requirements and their role in the national transportation system and be useful to AASHTO and other organizations working to develop the Transportation 2020 Consensus Program.

A steering committee has been selected to develop the conference program, to solicit and review resource papers, and to prepare the conference proceedings. The TRB committee is chaired by Theodore C. Lutz, Vice President and Business Manager of the *Washington Post*. Lutz was formerly with the Office of Management and Budget; was Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation; and General Manager, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Attendance will be limited to 500 and a balance of representation is of primary consideration.

A preliminary program with information on registration, hotel accommodations, conference structure, and other details can be obtained from TRB by contacting James A. Scott (202-334-2965) or Angelia Arrington (202-334-2934).