



MOVING AMERICA INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Vowing to make the development of a national transportation policy the top priority of his department, Secretary of Transportation Samuel K. Skinner opened the first phase in a program to revitalize the nation's transportation system at a conference last July on "Moving America: A Look Ahead to the 21st Century." Conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation with assistance from the Transportation Research Board, the conference was held at the National Academy of Sciences.

Skinner outlined an agenda for transportation that would turn the nation's transportation system "into a 21st century model of efficiency." Noting that "the roads, bridges, and runways of America are wearing out, while the demand for mobility continues to grow," Skinner introduced plans for a major outreach program including public hearings and workshops to pinpoint transportation issues, problems, and potential solutions. "If we are going to remain competitive, we have to ensure that our transportation system is the best in the world," he declared.

Highlighting emphasis on cooperation among transportation groups if answers to "the tough questions" are to be found, Skinner introduced a panel of six speakers representing both the public and private sectors.

William B. Johnston, vice president for special projects, Hudson Institute, listed five factors that are currently affecting transportation: slow population growth, the aging of the population, movement of the population to the south and west, the shift in density as sections of the population move to the suburbs, and the large number of women entering the work force. According to Johnston, there are opportunities to increase the efficiency of existing systems, such as

- Developing a set of transportation performance goals,
- Adopting more market-oriented measures for transportation systems, and
- Developing information tools that make the most of the performance of the various systems.



John W. Snow, president and chief executive officer, CSX Corporation, one of conference speakers, with Deputy Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao.

Edwin Colodny, president of USAIR, Inc., emphasized that aviation today is truly mass transportation. He predicted that air traffic will grow by 25 percent in the next century and called for increased aviation infrastructure to meet this need. He recommended

- Retention of user fees in airport and airway capital development;
- Assignment of capital spending to airport capacity expansions and new airports, with consideration of environmental aspects;
- Acceleration of the National Airspace System plan to modernize air traffic control systems and surveillance and weather technology; and
- Allocation of additional resources to research and development to increase capacity.

Colodny also drew attention to concerns such as the need for a new noise policy on a national level, for the use of



Nebraska Governor Kay Orr urged that a new transportation policy focus on issues rather than modes.

military airports by both civil and military organizations, and for the relief of congestion by using such methods as high-speed rail for short hauls in areas where air space is overcrowded.

Governor of Nebraska Kay Orr, chairman of the National Governors' Association Committee on Transportation, Commerce, and Communication, supported the development of a national transportation policy. In her address, Orr recommended that transportation should be considered in its broadest sense, with the focus on issues rather than modes. Transportation solutions should take social and economic goals such as public safety and the environment into consideration, rural America should not be ignored, and the public should be kept informed of new developments.

Robert C. Stempel, president of General Motors Corporation, addressed issues such as the importance of national investment in intelligent vehicle highway systems, which are receiving considerable attention in Japan and Europe, and clean air and the reduction of automobile emissions. He predicted that cooperation among government, the automobile industry, and the petroleum industry offered the best chance to further reduce automobile emissions.

John W. Snow, president and chief executive officer of CSX Corporation, recommended a strategic approach to transportation and emphasized the interrelationship of transportation modes. He suggested that the marketplace must determine the allocation of traffic among the various systems. Snow pointed out that government has played a vital role in transportation, citing the advances that have resulted from deregulation of some modes. He underlined the need for a review of the nation's maritime policy and recommended that a decision be made on whether both a shipbuilding and a maritime industry could be supported.



Secretary of Transportation Samuel Skinner introduces first phase of a national transportation policy to meet future needs at conference on "Moving America, A Look Ahead to the 21st Century."

Robert M. White, president of the National Academy of Engineering, discussed environmental issues related to transportation such as urban pollution, acid rain, oil spills, and global warming. White concluded that the environment, as well as economic strength, must be taken into consideration in planning for the future.

The first phase of a national transportation policy overview, "Building the National Transportation Policy," was released by the U.S. Department of Transportation following the conference. Secretary Skinner stated that the report "assesses the conditions and trends in the markets served by transportation, identifies the external factors that affect transportation, and sets out key issues for discussion and negotiation."