

## Policy Resolution PR-1-22

### Title: Development of a National Vision for the Future of Transportation and Individual and Collective Actions for State Departments of Transportation to Make Progress toward the Vision

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Whereas, transportation in the United States often has advanced through shared purpose among the states, the federal government and other public and private sector partners and commitment to bold actions – from the transcontinental railroad to the Panama Canal to the Interstate Highway System to the moon landing;

Whereas, shifts in demographics, economics, development patterns, environmental conditions, technologies and other trends are changing demand for moving people and freight; the mobility options available to serve residents, visitors and businesses; and the capacity of transportation agencies to carry out their mission;

Whereas, the need to advance a shared vision for the future of transportation is becoming increasingly urgent as transportation agencies respond to changes in travel behavior and supply chain disruptions following the COVID-19 pandemic; sharp increases in traffic fatalities; growing gaps in access to jobs and essential services for many Americans; and increases in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events and other disruptions;

Whereas, the state departments of transportation can play a unique role defining and advancing a vision for the next era of transportation because of their ability to address both local, statewide, and multistate perspectives; their ability to collaborate across boundaries and with partners outside of transportation; and their ability to deliver programs to meet the needs of their communities;

Whereas, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in its 2021-2026 Strategic Plan committed to a vision for the organization of “providing improved quality of life through leadership in transportation,” including the goals of safety, mobility and access for everyone; national transportation policy leadership; and organizational excellence with world class services;

Whereas, National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) project 20-24 (138) conducted research in support of describing a national transportation vision, including a review of prior eras of transportation in the United States, examples of transformative change in other industries and trends and uncertainties shaping the future of transportation;

Whereas, NCHRP 20-24 (138) engaged subject matter experts and thought leaders throughout a range of sectors in shaping the future vision for transportation, through interviews and participation in a two-day “Vision Retreat” in March 2022; and

Whereas, the leadership of the 52 state departments of transportation participated in the development and refinement of the vision framework developed through NCHRP 20-24 (138) through participation in interviews, the vision retreat and workshops for the boards of directors of AASHTO, the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials, the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials, the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that AASHTO and its member departments adopt the transportation vision framework developed under NCHRP project 20-24(138), which is that the next era of transportation in the United States should focus on connecting communities, moving people and goods and meeting customer needs at all scales, from local to global – delivered as a partnership between state departments of transportation and other public, private, and civic sector partners;

*Resolved*, that the shared, aspirational goals for the next era of transportation should provide for community-centered transportation that is safe and secure, accessible and affordable, seamless and reliable, healthy and thriving, clean and sustainable, and agile and resilient;

*Resolved*, that the state departments of transportation should work toward implementation of this shared vision through individual actions that are appropriate for the context of each state; and

*Resolved*, that the NCHRP 20-24 panel will identify tools and resources for member DOTs to advance this vision and report to the Board periodically on progress toward this vision.

Approved by the AASHTO Board of Directors  
October 23, 2022