

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYMPOSIUM
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
OCTOBER, 2000

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Consistent with our mutual commitment to a global economy, Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater hosted transport ministers, key transportation officials and international organizations from 73 nations, areas, and regions, in Washington, D.C., to review existing transportation practices that have proved successful in meeting current and anticipated transportation challenges in the 21st Century.

Recognizing that transportation is a key to economic development, the participants reviewed best practices in transportation policies and management throughout the world that may serve as future models for countries that face similar challenges. Adoption of "best practices" will help promote safety and security in transportation development while protecting the environment, addressing the needs of the growing transportation work force, aiding in the attraction of private investment to basic transportation infrastructure, helping governments achieve sustainable transportation development, supporting regional cooperation, and addressing special concerns of developing countries in an increasingly interdependent, intermodal world.

Recognizing that all countries face challenges in air, maritime, or surface transportation, participants also took part in panels that explored various solutions to transportation challenges that are likely to present themselves in the new century.

Among the subjects considered were recent innovations and experimental programs addressing promotion of greater safety and security in transport systems, revenue and funding options, new technologies, the transportation workforce, modal integration, E-commerce and its impact on transportation, infrastructure needs and solutions, harmonizing transportation systems with the environment, and information exchange.

It was the consensus of the participants in the International Transportation Symposium that the following principles would be instrumental in guiding future transportation development:

- Provision of the highest standards of safety and security, including human resource development, in all transportation sectors;
- States should address the growing needs of the transportation work force in a global economy, including internationally recognized labor and key safety standards;
- Facilitation of the most efficient and economical movement of people and goods;

- Enhance clear, transparent, compatible, and sustainable transportation regulatory and legal frameworks that seek the highest operating and safety standards;
- Expansion of opportunities for innovation, use of advanced technologies and new business methods and promotion of public/private sector, small business and labor participation in the development and provision of efficient and adequate transport infrastructure and services;
- Enhance economic policies that encourage investment in transportation systems and allow for close collaboration with international financial institutions;
- Availability of affordable financing for developing nations in order to sustain a global network of transportation infrastructure;
- Expansion of regional cooperation in transportation planning that multiplies the benefits from sound national transportation strategies. This includes development of compatible policies, strategies and programs to promote open, fair and competitive transportation markets and development of technical and operating requirements based on internationally recognized standards, including, but not limited to, operating, safety, and labor standards;
- Simplification of national approval processes for transportation projects to reduce uncertainties and delays, without undermining public consultation procedures, employee protections and labor standards, including the adoption of internationally recognized bidding procedures and a timely bidding process;
- Integration of environment and sustainable development into transport policies in order to promote resource conservation and protection of the environment. This would include promoting energy efficient best practices and programs, for both motorized and non-motorized transportation, developed with due regard for the environment, and emphasizing their interrelationship with the quality of life in communities. Also included are the development of uniform, non-discriminatory standards and guidelines, encouraging development of environmentally compatible technologies such as new fuels and next generation vehicles, consistent with the interests of providers and users of transportation, including rural populations that have limited transportation options;
- Working cooperatively with the private sector and consideration of areas where public-private partnering can attract much needed capital; and
- Development of a policy architecture and, as appropriate, a regulatory framework for addressing existing and anticipated transportation challenges in the 21st century.

In declaring these principles, participants recognize the need to strengthen the commitment between developing and developed nations to work collaboratively and in partnership to bridge the economic and technical gaps between them, and to establish sound transportation goals taking into account the need for regional cooperation and the role that international organizations play.

The participants acknowledge that, by adopting and implementing the aforementioned principles, they signal their intention to further foster cooperation among themselves and with the relevant international organizations. They further signal their intention to further foster trust among transport authorities and address the needs of the transportation workforce, recognizing that such cooperation is paramount to further the development of a safe, efficient, and environmentally acceptable transportation system worldwide.