



Solving the North American Congestion Crisis

**Transportation Research Board
Annual Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2008
Washington, DC**

**Scott F. Belcher
President and CEO**

Intelligent Transportation Society of America



“Congestion results from poor policy choices and a failure to separate solutions that are effective from those that are not.”

-- Norman Mineta, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation

Transportation System in the United States is in a Crisis

- **Safety** - 42,000 people die each year in traffic crashes and 2.7 million people suffer injuries
- **Mobility** - congestion based on traffic delays, wasted time and fuel cost taxpayers approximately \$78 billion.
- **Environment** - transportation accounts for 28 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Funding** – transportation needs far outweigh resources

Congestion is Getting Worse

- Congestion affects more of the day
- Trips take longer
- Congestion affects weekend travel, personal trips, freight shipments, and travel in urban and rural areas
- Trip travel times are unreliable
- Congestion costs are increasing:
 - \$78 billion in 2005
 - \$73 billion in 2004
 - \$15 billion in 1982

Source: 2007 Urban Mobility Report

There is no **Single Solution**

Getting things done call for:

- Combination of many approaches and policies
- Adequately funded
- Multi-modal in nature
- Strong federal role
- Recognition of state autonomy
- Strong reliance on private sector funding and solutions

Solution will Require Some Nationwide Deployments

- Electronic Toll Collection
- Coordinated System and Information Management
- Weigh-In Motion
- Vehicle Infrastructure Integration

Solution Will Require Local Deployments (U.S. DOT Congestion Initiative)

Urban Partners:

- San Francisco
- Seattle
- Minneapolis
- Miami
- New York
- Tolling; variable pricing; integrated mobility accounts
- Tolling; variable pricing; traveler info.
- HOT lanes; variable pricing; freeway man.; bus rapid transit (BRT)
- HOT lanes; variable pricing; BRT; freeway man.
- Congestion pricing; tolling; ferry service

“Transportation for Tomorrow”

National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission Recommendations

- Annual investment of \$225 billion in the transportation system from all sources
- Federal government working as a full partner with state and local agencies
- Complete overhaul of the current Federal transportation surface programs
- Additional funding through new sources of revenue such as user-based fees and increased public/private partnerships

“Transportation for Tomorrow”

Building the modern, intermodal system the nation needs will require a substantial investment.

- Funding
 - Raise Federal fuel tax by 25 to 40 cents per gallon over next few years. Fuel tax through 2025
 - Vehicle Miles Traveled Fee possibility
 - User-based fees: container fees for freight projects, ticket taxes for passenger rail improvements.
 - Peak hour congestion pricing in major metropolitan areas should be considered.
- Performance based
- Public / private partnerships should be encouraged
- BRAC-like Commission to avoid earmarks

15th World Congress on ITS Technology Demonstrations

- **Test Beds – Manhattan and Long Island**
- **11th Avenue Theater**
- **VII Transportation Management Center of the Future**



15th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems

November 16-20, 2008

ITS Connections: Saving Time, Saving Lives

www.itsworldcongress.org