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Advocacy Position Statement

Multimodal Transportation Systems

Statement of Purpose

The American Public Works Association (APWA) seeks to inform elected officials, transportation policy-makers and decision-makers at all levels of government, and the public at-large, of its stated position on multimodalism as it applies to our nation's transportation system.

Statement of Position

APWA encourages all levels of government transportation and environmental officials to work together to develop and implement policies and standards that will result in an integrated, multimodal transportation system for the efficient and environmentally sustainable movement of people and goods.

To ensure a more sustainable and effective transportation system, transportation funding should be mode neutral, placing transit and road funding on an equal footing. Associated regulations and guidelines should have the flexibility to address multimodal (in addition to vehicle lanes) solutions such as dedicated transit lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, transit cutouts and stops, and/or traffic calming measures. This flexibility should address rural to urban conditions while balancing safety and convenience for everyone using the transportation network.

APWA further recommends that multimodal alternative analyses of projects be performed prior to their being programmed for design and construction. Effective analyses will evaluate the anticipated demand for movement of people and goods as well as the long-term impacts on maintenance and operations, the economy, the livability of communities, and the environment.

Background and Rationale

APWA recognizes the need for the integrated, energy-efficient movement of people and goods as vital to both public mobility and the economy. Providing infrastructure alternatives to the single occupant vehicle can conserve resources, help reduce greenhouse gases, increase highway capacity for goods movement, and reduce travel time and improve safety.

Public works officials play an important role in planning, developing, maintaining, and operating facilities and services that together comprise a balanced and equitable multimodal transportation system. Coordination among individual modal subsystems and easy transfers among modes are crucial to overall system performance.

APWA also recognizes that fully integrated multimodalism involves a long-term policy commitment that includes not just the construction and maintenance of roads and highways, but also the construction, operation, maintenance and modernization of public transportation infrastructure, such as bus and rail transit, the inclusion of streetscape amenities, and education programs to promote multimodal behavior by system users.

Sponsor

Transportation Committee