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Advocacy Position Statement

Intelligent 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 in support of Intelligent Transportation Systems.

Statement of Position

APWA, representing local government public works officials across the nation, endorses the goal of incorporating Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) services and strategies into metropolitan and rural transportation systems and urges Congress to continue its commitment to Intelligent Transportation Infrastructure (ITI) development and deployment. The use of these services and technologies can enhance the safe, efficient and convenient movement of people and goods in metropolitan areas by creating seamless, intermodal, inter-jurisdictional intelligent transportation systems.

Background and Rationale

ITS services and technologies can improve the safety and efficiency of movement of people and goods and the competitiveness of America's intermodal and international freight transportation system. Deployment of ITS services depends on a partnership between the private sector and public agencies and should be incorporated into the local transportation decision-making process outlined by current federal surface transportation law.

Widespread deployment of ITS services and strategies has the potential to bring a variety of benefits to local communities in both rural and urban areas. ITS has been proven to improve safety and personal security and increase travel efficiency and convenience. The manufacture and marketing of these new technology applications and devices will also benefit the American economy. ITS services developed and under development can enhance: travel and transportation, travel demand management, public transportation operations, electronic payment, freight management, commercial vehicle operations, emergency management, and advanced vehicle control and safety. These services and technologies can provide local governments with cost-effective means of increasing utilization of existing transportation systems in response to increasing demand.

Implementation of these systems will require close cooperation and coordination among a multitude of public agencies, private firms and affected stakeholders. In order to facilitate ITS deployment by local governments, the public and private sectors must work in partnership to deploy Intelligent Transportation Systems. APWA encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation and state governments to continue their partnership with local governments and the private sector in the development of integrated ITS services and strategies.

Further, APWA endorses the U.S. Department of Transportation's goal of deploying an integrated, interoperable and intermodal ITS for consumers of passenger and freight transportation across the nation with the active participation of local governments at all stages of the process. The Federal ITS program will achieve these goals through research and development, operational testing, technology transfer, training and technical guidance in the areas of intelligent vehicles, advanced traffic and transit management, commercial vehicle operations, public safety, traveler information, and intermodal freight. While the private sector will lead in the development and deployment of reliable and affordable ITS technology and will lead in bringing it to market, federal, state and local governments will lead in the deployment of the core intelligent transportation infrastructure that meets essential public needs and is coordinated within the local decision-making process.

Sponsor

Transportation Committee