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Advocacy Position Statement

Public Transportation

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 Public Transportation.

Statement of Position

APWA supports improvements to public transportation, including the planning, development and operation of efficient and effective local, regional and inter-regional services. These services include improving the frequency, reliability and quality of local and regional bus and rail services, as well as infrastructure improvements to support these services.

Background and Rationale

APWA supports the movement of people in a cost effective, socially and , and environmentally responsible manner. Increased traffic congestion in urban and rural areas has resulted in reduced air quality, greater energy consumption, and travel delays throughout the states and provinces. Increased fuel costs have substantially increased the costs of individual transportation modes and placed more demand on public transportation modes. Increased commutes and drive alone vehicle time isolate people from each other and reduce quality of life. APWA encourages and supports the planning, funding and operation of a balanced transportation system that results in improved levels of public transportation services, as well as facilities to promote alternatives to driving, including walking, bicycling and demand management strategies such as telecommuting and flexible work hours.

APWA also encourages the use of planning and technology approaches, which can improve the attractiveness and competitiveness of public transportation systems and other alternatives to the automobile. These include:

- Development of improved transportation modeling systems which allow agencies to incorporate public transportation, bicycling and walking as integral elements of the transportation network;
- Incorporation of design guidelines and zoning codes which support land use and site planning friendly to Transit-Oriented Developments (TODs), transit users, bicyclists, pedestrians and persons with disabilities; and,

- Incorporation of Intelligent Transportation Systems into public transportation services, such as automated vehicle location systems for buses, automated passenger information systems on buses, at bus stops and via electronic messaging, and other methods that improve efficiency and customer friendliness.

Sponsor

Transportation Committee