



"Serving Western Legislatures"

RESOLUTION 2004-1

HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

(Calls for Prompt Enactment of a Well-Funded, Six-Year Reauthorization Bill)

Introduced by the Trade and Transportation Committee

WHEREAS, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, authorizing funding for federal-aid highway, transit and highway transit safety programs, expired on September 30, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments-*WEST* calls for prompt enactment of a well-funded, six-year reauthorization bill; and

WHEREAS, the Congress has not yet passed a well-funded, six-year reauthorization bill; and

WHEREAS, further extensions are intolerable and have the following negative impacts on the Nation's transportation system:

- Disruption to the construction program
- Adverse effects on transportation decision-making
- Safety improvements delayed
- Funding disruptions to grant recipients; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Nation's transportation system to provide flexibility for states to direct core program resources to the areas of greatest need with a greater use of incentives rather than sanctions to achieve highway safety goals; and

WHEREAS, prompt enactment of such a bill before the adjournment of the 108th Congress remains the top priority of the Council of State Governments-*WEST*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments-WEST urges the following actions:

- 1- if Congress determines that an extension is absolutely necessary, then it should be for six months to avoid a series of disruptive and harmful shorter term extension; and
- 2- that such extension should provide for funding at levels higher than FY 2004; and
- 3- that immediate reauthorization of the highway and transit program at maximum funding levels is urgently needed and preferable to any extension; and
- 4- that a six month extension of the federal-aid highway and transit programs should, to the maximum extent possible, apportion highway funds to the States through the existing core highway programs.

**Adopted by the CSG-WEST Executive Committee on September 29, 2004
Assembled in Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska**