



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

June 2, 2008

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Section 5305(h) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU, Public Law 109-59) directs the Department to establish an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Secretary of Transportation on the scope and direction of the Department's ITS Program, subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C., App.2). SAFETEA-LU also directs the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to submit an annual report to Congress that includes all the recommendations made by the ITS Program Advisory Committee during the preceding calendar year; an explanation of how the Department has implemented those recommendations; and for recommendations not implemented, the reasons for rejecting the recommendations.

In accordance with the statute, the Department identified 20 individuals to serve on the ITS Program Advisory Committee and extended invitations to 19 candidates in June 2007. All 19 candidates accepted. However, since that time, one member has been replaced by the Department and one has resigned. In January 2008, the Department selected Dr. Joseph Sussman to serve as Chair and Mr. Robert Denaro to serve as Vice Chair of the ITS Advisory Committee.

The ITS Advisory Committee has maintained an aggressive schedule since their formation, having met three times since June 2007. The first meeting, on September 25, 2007, was held via web conference and provided basic information to committee members on the role and responsibilities of the ITS Advisory Committee (including a review of the SAFETEA-LU legislation and FACA procedures), information on conflict of interest, and an initial overview of the Department's ITS program. The second meeting was held on November 26-27, 2007, at the Department's headquarters. This meeting provided the committee members with more detailed information on the Department's ITS Program and also presented information on the ITS Program's initial strategic planning efforts. The strategic plan is intended to support development of the Department's second 5-Year ITS Program Plan. The second 5-Year ITS Plan is expected to be submitted to Congress in August 2008. During the strategic planning discussion, the committee provided verbal input to the Department on ITS industry trends and areas of interest for Federal research. Their input was used directly by DOT to develop draft mission, goals, focus areas and Federal research roles for future ITS programs. Transcripts of both meetings, along with associated documents, are available at <http://www.its.dot.gov/itspac/index.htm>.

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The third meeting of the ITS Advisory Committee was held on March 13, 2008. This meeting continued the previous discussion on ITS strategic planning. The Department provided the next generation of proposed mission, goals and focus areas for the ITS program, which was based previous input from the committee. The committee spent several hours in discussion and provided extensive verbal feedback. As a result of this meeting, the ITS Advisory Committee is expected to make formal recommendations which will guide the future strategic direction of the Department's ITS program. The recommendations, along with the Department's response to those recommendations, will be included in the Department's next report to Congress, due in February 2009.

Enclosed is additional background information on the ITS Advisory Committee and the processes that have been undertaken by the Department to fulfill this requirement.

An identical letter has been sent to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Advisory Committee will continue to convene with the next meeting tentatively scheduled for July 2008.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Peters".

Mary E. Peters

Enclosures

Enclosure 1.

The current roster of members is as follows:

- **Randell H. Iwasaki, Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Transportation.**
- **Alfred Foxx, Director of the Baltimore City Department of Transportation.**
- **John M. English, General Manager on the Utah Transit Authority Board of Trustees.**
- **Ann Flemer, Deputy Director of Operations for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission of the San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.**
- **Tomiji Sugimoto, Vice President of Honda Research and Development Americas, Inc.**
- **Robert Peter Denaro, Vice President of NAVTEQ.**
- **Iris Weinshall, former Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation**
- **Joseph Averkamp, Vice President of Business Development for the Intelligent Transportation Society of America..**
- **Dr. M. Granger Morgan, Professor and Department Head of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University.**
- **Dr. Joseph M. Sussman, JR East Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering Systems at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.**
- **Dr. Kenneth J. Button, Professor of Public Policy at the George Mason School of Public Policy and is Director of both the Center for Transportation Policy, Operations and Logistics, and the Center for Aerospace Policy Research.**
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- **Michael Replogle, Transportation Director for Environmental Defense.**
- **Thomas C. Lambert, Vice President and Chief of Police of the Department of Police and Traffic Management at the Metropolitan Transit Authority in Houston, TX.**
- **Steve Albert, Director of the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University.**
- **Scott F. Belcher, President and CEO of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America.**

Enclosure II: Background Information

SAFETEA-LU specifies that, at a minimum, the ITS Advisory Committee is expected to review, at least annually, areas of ITS research being considered for funding by the Department, to determine the following:

- Whether these activities are likely to advance either the state-of-the-practice or state-of-the-art in intelligent transportation systems.
- Whether the intelligent transportation system technologies are likely to be deployed by users, and if not, to determine the barriers to deployment.
- The appropriate roles for government and the private sector in investing in the research and technologies being considered.

The Department has undertaken the activities necessary to establish the ITS Advisory Committee under the procedures and requirements of FACA. A charter for this committee was developed in February 2006 and submitted to GSA, the Library of Congress, and the Congressional Oversight Committees. The Department renewed the charter in February 2008 in accordance with FACA regulations, and established the committee membership in accordance with SAFETEA-LU requirements. The legislation specified that the advisory committee have no more than 20 members, be balanced between metropolitan and rural interests, and include, at a minimum, 12 specific “types” of members, including the following:

- A representative from a State highway department.
- A representative from a local highway department who is not from a metropolitan planning organization.
- A representative from a State, local, or regional transit agency.
- A representative from a metropolitan planning organization.
- A private sector user of intelligent transportation system technologies.
- An academic researcher with expertise in computer science or another information science field related to ITS, and who is not an expert on transportation issues.
- An academic researcher who is a civil engineer.
- An academic researcher who is a social scientist with expertise in transportation issues.
- A representative from a nonprofit group representing the ITS industry.
- A representative from a public interest group concerned with safety.
- A representative from a public interest group concerned with the impact of the transportation system on land use and residential patterns.
- Members with expertise in planning, safety, and operations.



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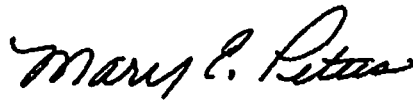
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
Executive Secretariat

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BATTLE/BLOMBARD
Analyst

Office / Name / Phone / Date	Rec. In S-10
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Approved By RITA/Brubaker X64180 03/21	03/24
WRITER-EDITOR FOR REVIEW S10LH Revised 03/27 03/24	
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S10BL Revised 05/30	
Reviewed by Executive Secretariat	
Chief, IAS:	Deputy Director:
Date:	Date:
	Director: <i>JEU</i>
	Date: <i>6/2/08</i>

Subject:
Secretary's Transmittal to the Congress

Chief of Staff Date in: _____
Date out: _____

Cleared and Concurred - forward to S-1
 Cleared only - forward S-1
 Not Cleared
 Cleared and Concurred - forward to S-2
 Cleared only - forward to S-2
 Forward to S-2 - save for weekly review

Comments:

Autopen Approval: Date: *6/2/08*
JEU

Deputy Secretary Date in: _____
Date out: _____

Concurrence Nonconcurrence
 Save for weekly review

Comments:

S-10 Follow-Up