

POLICY POSITION

FEDERAL INTERSTATE HIGHWAY PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

As the Federal Interstate Highway Program nears completion, it is vitally important that the federal highway program provides for the needs of all our states. At an absolute minimum, the transportation program must take into account the increases in population growth and economic development that states are experiencing; as well as the dramatic increase in traffic levels and wear and tear on our highways and bridges.

The following provisions must be a part of any surface transportation program adopted by the Congress: 1) The release of Highway Trust Fund money, 2) Revision of the current funding formulas by deleting antiquated formulas, and 3) Provision of greater equity in returning tax payments to the states.

At the very least, the new formulas should include the following three factors: 1) lane miles, 2) vehicle miles, and 3) diesel fuel usage. This third component is vital when we consider that the wear and tear caused by one 80,000 lb truck is equal to that of 9,600 cars.

RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference urges the Congress to include these factors in any Surface Transportation Act it may pass. It is only by these means that a program equitable to both the states and to the nation may be achieved.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference, August 11, 1992, Miami Beach, Florida.