Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users


Jim Brachtel, P.E.
ITS & Traffic Engineer
FHWA – Iowa Division

Iowa DOT Traffic & Safety Forum

October 13, 2005
Agenda – SAFETEA-LU

- System Management and Operations
- Congestion Mitigation
- ITS
- Freight
Overall Observations

• Incorporation of system management and operations.
• Significant focus on congestion mitigation, including
  – Congestion management
  – Real-time information
  – ITS
• Strong recognition of importance of freight investment, albeit with significant earmarking.
• Continued support for ITS R&D; ITS Deployment mainstreamed.
System Management and Operations

• Transportation Planning (6001)
  – Metropolitan Transportation Planning
    • Specific requirement to include “operational and management strategies” in metropolitan transportation plan.
    • Renames CMS as Congestion Management Process and includes specific reference to the need to provide for “effective management and operations” and “implementation of operational management strategies.”
  – Statewide transportation planning
    • Specific requirement to include “capital, operations and management strategies investments, procedures, and other measures to ensure the preservation and most efficient use of the existing system.”
Congestion Management

• Funding
  – CMAQ Funding and Eligibility
  – High Priority Projects
  – Highways for Life
Congestion Management

• Tools
  – Continues Value Pricing Program (1604(a))
    • $59 million in new funding, including $12 million for projects not involving tolls
  – New Express Lanes Demonstration Projects (1604(b))
    • Focused on managing congestion
    • 15 projects, no separate funds
    • DOT to establish interoperability requirement for automatic toll collection
  – HOV Facilities (1121)
    • States permitted to create HOT lanes
    • States can permit low emission/energy efficient vehicles to use HOV lanes
    • Performance monitoring required
Congestion Management

• Research
  – Surface Transportation Congestion Relief Solutions (5502)
    • $36 million over 4 years for research
    • $3 million over 4 years for training and technical assistance
    • Focus on:
      – Congestion measurement and reporting
      – Effective congestion relief strategies
  – Future Strategic Highway Research Program (5210)
    • $205 million over 4 years for research
    • Managed by National Academy of Sciences
    • Four focus areas, including:
      – Improving reliability
Real-Time Information

- Real-Time Systems Management Information Program (1201)
  - Establish capability in all States to provide real time:
    - Sharing of information
    - Monitoring of traffic conditions
  - Purpose – ease congestion, improve response to severe weather, accidents, and other incidents; and enhanced security
  - Eligible for funding under NHS, STP, and CMAQ
  - Must be part of regional ITS architectures
  - DOT to establish data exchange standards within 2 years

- 511 Deployment Goal (full deployment by 2010)
Real-Time Information

• Transportation Technology Innovative Demonstration Program (5508)
  – Extension of Intelligent Transportation Infrastructure Program established by TEA-21.
  – Twenty-two new eligible cities.
  – Existing contract with Mobility Technologies will be completed as planned.
  – Must create and compete new program to use uncommitted and any new appropriated funds.
  – Solicitation of interest in program to be released around October 1.
ITS

• Deployment Funding
  – Mainstreamed throughout Federal-aid program; including high priority projects
  – Eligible under NHS, STP, and CMAQ
  – Categorical NEPA exclusion
  – ITS Deployment funds in 2005 only
  – $100 million, over 4 years, for CVISN deployment
ITS

• Research and Development (5301-5310)
  – Program reauthorized and expanded
  – $550 million over 5 years
    • Road weather - $20 million (5308)
    • I-95 Corridor - $35 million (5211)
    • Rural and Interstate Corridor Communications Study - $3 million (5507)
  – New advisory committee required
  – New program plan required
  – Legislation silent on ITS JPO
Key Freight Elements

- Freight Programs
- Freight-related Programs
- Freight Financing
- Research and Education
Freight Programs

• **Intermodal Distribution Pilot Grants (1306)**
  – Funding infrastructure and freight distribution needs at inland ports and intermodal freight facilities.
  – $30 million all earmarked.

• **Truck Parking Facilities (1305)**
  – Pilot program to address CMV long-term parking shortage on NHS.
  – Includes construction of new facilities, modifying existing facilities, ITS.
  – $25 million discretionary funds.

• **National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement Program (1302)**
  – Funds highway projects in corridors of national significance.
  – Focus on international and interregional trade.
  – $1.9 billion all earmarked.
Freight-related Programs

• Projects of National and Regional Significance (1301)
• Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program (1303)
• High Priority Projects (1701)
• Transportation Improvements (1934)
Freight Financing

• Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) (1601)
• Tax-exempt Financing of Highway Projects and Rail Truck Transfer Facilities (Private Activity Bonds) (11-1143)
• Capital Grants for Rail Line Relocation Projects (9002)
• Rail Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (9003)
Freight Research and Training

- National Cooperative Freight Transportation Research Program (5209)
  - $15 million over 4 years
  - Administered by the National Academy of Sciences
  - Broad advisory committee
  - Broad research agenda

- Freight Planning Capacity Building Program (5204h)
  - $3.5 million over 4 years
  - Goals:
    - Target investments
    - Strengthen decisionmaking capacity
Implications of SAFETEA-LU on Operations, ITS, and Freight

• More $
• Advances system management and operations
• Increases focus on congestion relief
• Creates opportunities
  – Managed lanes
  – Real-time information
  – Interoperability
• Maintains strong ITS R&D program
• Significantly expands attention to freight needs
• Funds congestion-related RD&T; but not day-to-day operations RD&T (e.g., MUTCD)
For More Information

SAFETEA-LU: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu

Management and Operations, ITS and Freight: www.fhwa.dot.gov/operations