

10 BIG IDEAS

FOR 21ST-CENTURY INTERSTATES

The nation's Interstate Highway System is facing a perfect storm: traffic congestion is on the increase; aging pavement and bridges are nearing or beyond the end of their design lives; and few, if any, accommodations are underway for the rapid onset of automated, connected and electric vehicles.

Immediate investments are essential to renew and transform this vital national mobility network. Yet, lack of vision and funding will cost Americans in time, money and lives. There is a way forward, but we must act now.

Commissioned by Congress and the U.S. DOT, *The Future Interstate Report* offers 10 Big Ideas to rebuild, reinvest in and re-envision America's

Interstate Highway System to provide for 21st-century mobility. These recommendations are the result of significant third-party studies and collective thought leadership from renowned independent transportation experts under the auspices of the National Academies of Sciences.

Carrying out these 10 Big Ideas will require government leadership, vision and a reinvigorated national commitment to building and sustaining a modern highway system that connects the nation coast-to-coast.

Learn More: Interstate.TRB.org



#1 Create a federal program to renew and modernize Interstate highways.

Congress should legislate an Interstate Highway System Renewal and Modernization Program (RAMP) to focus on next generation interstate mobility.



#2 Develop criteria to meet demands for an extended Interstate System.

Make smart choices about extending the System's scope, and remediating community and environmental disturbances.



#3 Assess the condition of Interstate bridges and pavement foundations.

Survey the System's foundational integrity in partnership with states to inform investment choices.



#4 Raise the federal fuel tax to provide revenue for near-term Interstate investments.

Establish a level commensurate with the federal share and adjust in response to inflation and fuel economy.



#5 Allow states and metro areas to toll more Interstate highways.

Provide a sustainable way to pay for System improvements, allocate capacity, and provide alternative mobility options.



#6 Explore new funding mechanisms, including mileage-based use fees.

Generate new revenue and compensate for declining fuel tax revenue from vehicle efficiency and alternative-fuel vehicles.



#7 Develop modeling tools and databases to gauge the impact of Interstate investments.

Inform the understanding of impacts on System conditions and traffic patterns locally, regionally, and nationally.



#8 Plan for the transition to electric, automated and connected vehicles.

Adopt basic intelligent transportation system technology to enable interoperability, enhance safety, and ensure cybersecurity.



#9 Build resilience to extreme weather and climate change into long-term plans.

Assess climate change vulnerabilities and create standards for cost-effective resilience enhancements.



#10 Seek ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Interstate traffic.

Make electric vehicle charging facilities more accessible to Interstate users and consider emissions impacts from System investments.