

# The Administration's Transportation Initiatives: Implications on Research and Analysis

Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Center for Transportation Analysis

Jack Wells  
Chief Economist  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
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# Key Obama Administration Priorities

- Economic recovery
- Energy conservation
- Environmental protection
- Slowing climate change
- Attention to distributional impacts
- Impacts on livability and communities
- Improving transportation security

# Program Implications

- More for transit
- More for rail
- Modal diversion a more explicit goal
- Highway focus on state of good repair
- More modal flexibility on how funds are spent
- Support for key programs for low-income and disadvantaged populations
- Interest in distributional impacts of transportation investments
- Interest in making transportation security more cost-effective

# Funding Implications

- More funding from General Fund
- Less dependence on modally-restricted trust funds
- Willingness to rely less on user charges
- Interest in capital budgeting
- National Infrastructure Bank

# Focus on Reform

- More attention to National Needs
- More programming of funds from Washington
- More focus on performance metrics
- More attention to benefits and costs to justify investment decisions
- More attention to better data to support improved analysis

# Planning, Livability, and Community Impacts

- Planning to
  - Provide alternatives to automobile use
  - Consider impacts on land use
  - Encourage transit-oriented development
- Livability means
  - More transportation options
  - Greater accessibility to public transit
  - Easier intermodal connections
  - More attention to local environmental impacts
  - More attention to unique needs of special populations

# Planning, Livability, and Community Impacts

- Partnership with HUD and EPA to
  - Integrate housing, transportation, and environmental planning
  - Harmonize HUD, DOT, and EPA programs
  - Joint research, data collection, and outreach
  - Redefine housing affordability to include transportation costs
  - Develop livability measures and strategies

# Impact on Research and Analysis

- Focus on National Needs and programming funds from Washington means
  - USDOT will need to be able to assess benefits and costs of transportation projects
- Better analysis of external costs and benefits
  - Energy and climate change impacts
  - Livability impacts
- Better analysis of the factors affecting modal diversion and choice

# Impact on Research and Analysis

- Impact of freight transportation improvements on different economic sectors
- Impacts on supply chains of federal policy changes
- Better analysis of the impacts of high-speed rail
- Better analysis of interactions between transportation and land use
- Focus on State of Good Repair enhances importance of Asset Management

# Impact on Research and Analysis

- Identification of Performance Metrics for hard-to-conceptualize goals like livability
- Better analysis of benefits and costs of prospective RD&T projects
- Factors affecting the deployment of ITS technology
- Analysis of most cost-effective approaches to transportation security

# Impact on Research and Analysis

- Will need better data to feed this analysis
  - More comprehensive freight flow data
  - Better passenger flow data
- Implications of National Infrastructure Bank
  - Better analysis of policy implications of alternative funding options