

Strategic Plan for the AASHTO Committee on Funding and Finance

As approved by the Strategic Management Committee, September 22, 2018

Goal 1: Leadership – Provide leadership in the review and development of national funding and finance policy.

1.1. Conduct reviews and analyses of funding and finance-related transportation policy and management initiatives.

Implementation Actions:

- Provide input to and guide AASHTO staff assessments of funding and finance-related legislation, regulations, and guidance.
- Provide input to the AASHTO Transportation Policy Forum on emerging transportation issues from a funding/finance perspective.

1.2. Develop recommendations for AASHTO-related federal transportation reauthorization legislation and other national-level policy positions related to transportation funding and finance.

Implementation Actions:

- Develop and provide recommendations to the AASHTO Transportation Policy Forum on AASHTO's funding and finance reauthorization platform.
- Develop and provide recommended national-level funding and finance policy positions to the AASHTO Transportation Policy Forum.

1.3. Advance consideration of new federal transportation funding and financing options.

Implementation Actions:

- Provide input on the identification and evaluation of new transportation funding sources and the viability of existing sources.
- Provide input on the identification and evaluation of new transportation financing options.

Goal 2 Education and Communication – Provide education on transportation funding and finance issues and support effective messaging and communications on funding needs.

2.1 Provide education on issues associated with unsustainable federal funding.

Implementation Actions:

- Support AASHTO staff in disseminating information on the state of the Federal Highway Trust Fund and conveying the importance of identifying a long-term, sustainable source of federal funding.

- Support educational efforts around the impacts of uncertain federal funding (e.g., rescissions in contract authority, short-term continuing resolutions instead of full year appropriations bills, etc.).

2.2 Build and champion the case for transportation investment.

Implementation Actions:

- Provide support in building the case for adequate and timely passage of funding for transportation infrastructure of all modes.
- Support the dissemination of information on the magnitude of transportation investment needs and the costs/consequences of inadequate investment.
- Support the dissemination of information on the benefits of transportation investment.
- Communicate the limitations of existing and emerging financing tools as a solution to address all funding shortfalls.

2.3 Promote effective communications about transportation funding and finance issues and topics.

Implementation Actions:

- Pursue efforts through the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) and other mechanisms to collect and develop best practices for talking about key transportation funding and finance topics with federal and state legislators, federal/state/local government agencies, key transportation stakeholders, and the general public.
- Pursue efforts through NCHRP research and other mechanisms to develop templates and other materials to help members better and more clearly communicate transportation funding and finance issues with federal and state legislators, federal/state/local government agencies, key transportation stakeholders, and the general public.

Goal 3 Research & Technical Support – Advance and disseminate research and support educational and technical assistance initiatives on current and emerging transportation funding, finance, and financial management topics.

3.1 Identify and prioritize key transportation funding, finance, and financial management research topics.

Implementation Actions:

- Develop and maintain a research road map that identifies research areas related to funding, finance, and financial management topics.
- Identify annual transportation funding, finance, and financial management research priorities and develop research problem statements for submission to NCHRP programs.

3.2 Support research and information sharing on funding sources and innovative transportation finance.

Implementation Actions:

- Provide guidance to AASHTO and/or the BATIC Institute in serving as a clearinghouse for federal, state, and local reports and studies related to transportation funding and finance
- Support, guide, and help disseminate research on options for transitioning to long-term, sustainable sources of funding at all levels of government.
- Support, guide, and help disseminate research on topics such as debt use/leveraging, innovative financing mechanisms, and public-private partnerships.
- Provide guidance and support to AASHTO and the BATIC Institute in providing peer-to-peer information exchanges on funding and innovative finance related topics.

3.3 Support research and information sharing on sound financial management practices and policies.

Implementation Actions:

- Support, guide, and help disseminate research on financial management practices and policies.
- Provide guidance and support to AASHTO and entities like the BATIC Institute in providing peer-to-peer information exchanges on best practices in financial management and communicating the benefits of these practices through examples and case studies.

Goal 4 Coordination – Coordinate work with relevant AASHTO committees and with federal partners to advance AASHTO funding, finance, and financial management interests.

4.1 Coordinate with other AASHTO committees, forums, and task forces.

Implementation Actions:

- Coordinate with other AASHTO committees on areas where funding and finance topics overlap; at a minimum, this will include working with the Transportation Policy Forum and the Committees on Research and Innovation, Agency Administration, Communications, Performance Management, and Planning.
- Conduct annual or other meetings in conjunction with other AASHTO committees as necessary.

4.2 Coordinate with federal partners

Implementation Actions:

- Provide input to federal partners on matters associated with transportation funding, finance, and financial management.