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For Immediate

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President Signs Historic Transportation Bill: Legislation Ushers in New Era of Cooperation to Reduce Roadway Crashes

Montgomery, IL. – ATSSA Immediate Past-President Kathleen Holst was with President Bush as the long-awaited federal transportation bill, passed nearly two weeks ago by both the U.S. House and Senate, was signed into law. The \$286.4 billion measure, which survived two years of congressional wrangling and a few presidential veto threats, provides billions of new dollars for roadway safety and ushers in a new era of cooperation among safety proponents.

“This is an historic day not only for ATSSA members but for the tens of thousands of motorists who take to our nation’s roadways each day,” remarked ATSSA President, Tom McSwain.

“The signing of this legislation provides states with the resources, direction and flexibility necessary to re-energize our nation’s focus on roadway safety,” said Roger Wentz, executive director of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).

ATSSA is especially enthusiastic about aspects of the law that will focus attention on the actual roadway, in addition to the more traditional emphasis on altering driver behavior. A \$5 billion core Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) that requires states to develop strategic highway safety plans is a key safety component. “This new law also includes provisions to address work zone safety and begin the process of creating a more forgiving driving environment for older drivers,” said Rob Dingess, ATSSA’s Director of Government Relations.

“This was the first transportation legislation with a Core Roadway Safety Program, ATSSA’s program. The ATSSA members who took the time to participate in our annual legislative visit to Washington should feel especially proud that their efforts have resulted in a safety program that will save lives and reduce injuries all across the country,” added McSwain.

Visit the Government Relations link of atssa.com for more information or contact Rob Dingess at (800) 272-8772 ext. 125, or by e-mail at robd@atssa.com.