

Mr. Roger A. Wentz, CAE
President and CEO
American Traffic Safety Services Association
15 Riverside Parkway, Suite 100
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

September 21, 2009

RE: Endorsement of the ATSSA "Towards Zero Deaths" Policy

Dear Mr. Wentz,

As Legislative Committee Chair of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), I wish to express our board of director's support for the American Traffic Safety Services Association's (ATSSA) **Toward Zero Deaths** policy. We believe that ATSSA's goal of significantly reducing the number of deaths on America's roadways through policy change is an excellent approach. The safety statistics on our nation's roads and highways are improving, but are still outside any limit that should be acceptable.

As the voice for over 6000 transportation industry professionals, ASHE fully understands the need for safer roads in America. Roads and highways that are as forgiving as possible will have a profound effect on the lives of not only young Americans, but all who drive on our nation's roads. Engineers and contractors are making great strides to improve safety in design and construction, but more can and should be done. With policy changes and the funding that will accompany the changes, we hope that huge system-wide improvements can be achieved that will save thousands of lives each year.

ASHE understands the need to make America's roads safer, more efficient, and more reliable as we continue to move into the 21st century. Together, with ATSSA, we support:

- A set aside of highway dollars dedicated towards safety improvements.
- A commitment to making high risk rural roads safer by investing \$1 billion annually.
- A separate obligation limit for the Highway Safety Program (HSIP).
- Reserving HSIP funds exclusively for safety improvements and not making those dollars transferable.
- Establishing a process by which local governments can receive state and/or federal funds to meet obligations for minimum levels of retro-reflectivity for traffic signs and pavement markings.
- Funding the Older Drivers section of the transportation authorization bill with a commitment of \$500 million annually.

ATSSA has done an excellent job of outlining infrastructure-related recommendations that will result in huge improvements to the safety of our roadways. One significant comment about the

plans is this: *In our view, federal policies need to be flexible enough to allow for a wide range of safety improvements – physical, educational and cultural to allow states and local governments to adapt programs to meet their specific needs.*

Thank you for your efforts and this opportunity to show our support for highway safety.

Sincerely,

Calvin Leggett, P.E.
ASHE Legislative Committee Chair
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS

cc: Kevin Duris, P.E.; ASHE President
John Hetrick, P.E.; ASHE First Vice President
Richard Clifton, P.E.; ASHE Immediate Past President
Charles Flowe, P.E.; ASHE Secretary
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