

**Resolution of the
Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO)**

**The Importance of Funding and Flexibility to Develop
the Transportation Workforce of the Future**

WHEREAS, State Transportation Departments and Agencies are charged to ensure that both public and private sectors have access to a full complement of multi-modal transportation options that provide for safe, efficient, economical, and sustainable transportation networks and systems; and

WHEREAS, current and evolving federal programs and regulations for use of transportation program funds include requirements for demonstrating asset, and performance management; and

WHEREAS, assuring the public's access to transportation requires an increasingly diverse and differently skilled workforce, particularly as new technology uses rapidly emerge and frequently overtake existing protocols and standards, thereby creating a knowledge gap between needed and existing skills – such as the rapidly emerging development of Connected and Autonomous Vehicles; and

WHEREAS, to remain competitive in attracting and retaining a robust and skilled workforce, States must be able to develop and provide expanded training and educational opportunities that encourage a transportation career path in the public sector, with special attention to increasing the breadth and diversity of their talent pool, which is often recruited from a regionally and globally competitive market; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, in order to ensure a strong and skilled transportation workforce, must maintain or increase its financial investment in training programs to meet the requirements for retention of existing workers, as well as for expansion of the pool of workforce candidates for the future, to support all modes and disciplines in transportation – including, but not limited to, research and development, innovation deployment, infrastructure design and construction, safety for all modes, planning, resilience and sustainability, emergency response and system operations and logistics;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Congress should at a minimum, maintain the existing levels of funding available for workforce development and training within various modal programs in the FAST Act to provide adequate, sustainable and predictable resources for future workforce investments by states, and consider expanding availability of funds to all program areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Congress is strongly encouraged to recognize that each State may have educational and training programs that are unique or specific to assuring an adequately trained workforce to meet the needs of the transportation sector in their jurisdiction and therefore allow for flexibility in their application and use of these funds to meet those specific needs, which will in turn, support the transportation workforce development needs for the nation. Furthermore,

Congress should support efforts to ensure there is a strong knowledgeable, diverse, and dynamic pipeline of skilled transportation professionals to meet current and future needs in all disciplines by addressing and supporting both public and private sector initiatives and partnerships to meet the challenges of a 21st century transportation workforce.

Approved by the NASTO Board of Directors
on February 28, 2019 in Washington, D.C.

**NOTE: Only the NASTO Members from the United States voted on this resolution.*