

31 January 2012

The Honorable John L. Mica, Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge members of Congress to support a robust investment in high-tech solutions that get the most from our nation's infrastructure and transportation budget dollars. As legislators continue to work towards passing a multi-year transportation reauthorization bill in 2012, significant consideration should be given to employing Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) as cost-effective and efficient methods of improving transportation safety and optimizing traffic flow while reducing congestion and energy use.

Businesses and the driving public require transportation systems that are safe, reliable and cost-effective. The United States has to make substantial and wise investments to improve system performance to deal with traffic congestion and unclog bottlenecks, bring systems to a state of good repair and create seamless intermodal connections for goods and people. We are falling behind other nations and hindering economic growth. Intelligent transportation systems can be part of delivering better commutes and more efficient commerce.

In addition, investment in ITS is vital for strengthening job creation and the economy. Intelligent transportation systems are a critical contributor to national and regional economic competitiveness, ensuring that people and products move smoothly and efficiently, enabling reliable supply chains, and mitigating the negative economic consequences of traffic congestion and accidents. ITS technologies constitute a growing industry supporting tens of thousands of high-tech, high-paying jobs which are critical to fostering the competitiveness of the domestic automotive and IT industries.

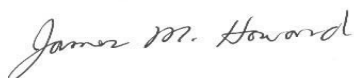
The Department of Transportation's annual ITS R&D funding of \$100 million has not grown at all in nominal dollars since it was first funded in 1992. This lack of growth in ITS R&D funding for 20 years (and indeed the substantial shrinkage when adjusted for inflation over this period) has seriously constrained opportunities for development of new ITS technologies.

Meanwhile, the international commitment to ITS is growing among leading industrialized nations. China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Germany, Great Britain, and other nations today view their ITS industry as a key industrial base, and one capable of generating considerable economic growth. It's time for the United States to make a similar commitment to ITS.

At a time when governments at all levels are being asked to do more with less, investing in intelligent transportation systems is a cost-effective way to ensure that our transportation system is safer, more efficient and user-friendly, all the while supporting job creation and economic growth.

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of 210,000 engineering, computing and technology professionals who are U.S. members of IEEE. <http://www.ieeeusa.org>. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Williams at 202- 530-8331 or email at [bill.williams@ieee.org](mailto:bill.williams@ieee.org).

Sincerely,



James M. Howard  
IEEE-USA President

Cc: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Members

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