SAFETEA-LU
Operations and ITS Provisions

TRB Committee on Traffic Signal Systems
Annual Workshop
Washington, DC

January 22, 2006

Jeffrey A. Lindley
Office of Operations
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Agenda – SAFETEA-LU

- System Management and Operations
- Congestion Management
- Real-Time Information
- ITS
Overall Observations

- Incorporation of system management and operations.
- Significant focus on congestion mitigation, including:
  - Congestion management
  - Real-time information
  - ITS
- Strong recognition of importance of freight investment, albeit with significant earmarking.
- Continued support for ITS R&D; ITS Deployment mainstreamed.
System Management and Operations

Transportation Planning (6001)

- Specific requirement to include “operational and management strategies” in metropolitan transportation plan.
- Renames CMS as Congestion Management Process and includes specific reference to the need to provide for “effective management and operations” and “implementation of operational management strategies.”
- Specific requirement to include “capital, operations and management strategies investments, procedures, and other measures to ensure the preservation and most efficient use of the existing system,” in statewide plans.

Regulations under development, to be issued in spring 2006.
Congestion Management

- HOV Facilities (1121)
  - New permitted exceptions to vehicle occupancy requirements:
    - Public transportation vehicles
    - HOT lanes
    - Low emission/energy efficient vehicles
  - Low emission/energy efficient vehicles may be tolled.
  - Requires States to certify that they will monitor operational performance, enforce HOV restrictions, address seriously degraded operations.

Revised HOV Program Guidance to be issued in the Fed Register for comment by early February.
Congestion Management

- Pricing
  - Continues Value Pricing Program (1604(a))
    - $59 million in new funding, including $12 million for projects not involving tolls.
  - New Express Lanes Demonstration Projects (1604(b))
    - Allows tolling of new or existing lanes to reduce congestion and/or improve air quality.
    - 15 projects, no separate funds.
    - DOT to establish interoperability requirement for automatic toll collection.

Office of Operations designated as lead contact for all pricing/toll programs. Federal Register notices on pricing programs issued on January 6. NPRM on ETC interoperability to be issued by June.
Congestion Management

Research

- Surface Transportation Congestion Relief Solutions (5502)
  - $36 million over 4 years for research.
  - $3 million over 4 years for training and technical assistance.
  - Focus on:
    - Congestion measurement and reporting
    - Effective congestion relief strategies

- Future Strategic Highway Research Program – SHRP II (5210)
  - $205 million over 4 years for research.
  - Managed by National Academy of Sciences.
  - Four focus areas, including:
    - Improving reliability
Real-Time Information

- Real-Time Systems Management Information Program (1201)
  - Establish capability in all States to provide real time:
    - Sharing of information
    - Monitoring of traffic conditions
  - Purpose – ease congestion, improve response to severe weather, accidents, and other incidents; and enhanced security.
  - Eligible for funding under NHS, STP, and CMAQ.
  - Must be part of regional ITS architectures.
  - DOT to establish data exchange standards within 2 years.

Initial program announcement to be issued for comment early February.
Real-Time Information

Transportation Technology Innovative Demonstration Program (5508)

- Two-part extension and expansion of Intelligent Transportation Infrastructure Program established by TEA-21.
- $2 million per city available to support deployment of traffic monitoring infrastructure and commercialization of data.
- Twenty-two new cities + thirteen original cities that have not received prior funding are eligible.
- Part I: Existing contract with Mobility Technologies will be completed as planned (11 additional cities).
- Part II: Create and complete new program to use any unobligated and any new appropriated funds.

Federal Register solicitation on interest issued on October 19, closes on February 6.
Castastrophic Hurricane Evacuation Plans (10204)

- Requires Report to Congress assessing Gulf Coast State evacuation planning for catastrophic hurricanes.
- Due date specified in SAFETEA-LU – October 2006.
- Joint responsibility – DOT and DHS.

*Outreach to State and local governments expected in February-March.*
ITS

Deployment Funding

- Mainstreamed throughout Federal-aid program; including high priority projects.
- Eligible under NHS, STP, and CMAQ.
- Categorical NEPA exclusion.
- ITS Deployment funds in 2005 only.
- $100 million, over 4 years, for CVISN deployment.
ITS

- Research and Development (5301-5310)
  - Program reauthorized and expanded.
  - $550 million over 5 years
    - Road weather - $20 million (5308)
    - I-95 Corridor - $35 million (5211)
    - Rural and Interstate Corridor Communications Study - $3 million (5507)
  - New advisory committee required.
  - New 5-year program plan required.

*Work underway to establish advisory committee.*
*Program plan to be completed by August.*
Implications of SAFETEA-LU on Operations / ITS

- More $
- Advances system management and operations
- Increases focus on congestion relief
- Creates opportunities
  - Managed lanes
  - Real-time information
  - Interoperability
- Maintains strong ITS R&D program
- Funds congestion-related RD&T; but not day-to-day operations RD&T (e.g., MUTCD)
For More Information

SAFETEA-LU:
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu

Management and Operations, ITS and Freight:
www.fhwa.dot.gov/operations