

Statement

of

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**Committee on Science, Space, and Technology**

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**DRAFT TESTIMONY**

- Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Committee this morning. I would like to make a few brief comments on the first edition of the Surface Transportation Research and Development Plan which was published in July, 1993, and to provide you with a status report on the upcoming edition.

The Surface Transportation Research and Development Plan has proven to be a useful document both within the Department and to the public--and, we believe to the Congress. It has been especially helpful in explaining the Department's surface transportation programs to two important groups of Federal agencies: 1) the departments involved in defense conversion programs, including the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the National laboratories, and 2) the National Science and Technology Council's Interagency Committee on Transportation.

The planning process has brought diverse elements of the Department together through the process of developing the Plan. This included review and approval of the entire Plan by all of the surface transportation modal administrations. It also contributed to intermodal coordination and to advancing the Department's efforts to "think intermodal."

In the Department's budget request for Fiscal Year 1994, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) proposed to expand the annual research and development plan to a fully multimodal plan to include surface, air, water and space transportation. However, per this Committee's request, we are now

preparing a surface transportation research and development plan as required under ISTEA.

We informed Congress that submission of the second annual plan would be delayed until February 1995, because the last plan was delivered only in August 1993, and any update would not reflect new research and technology initiatives currently underway in the Department.

Our objective for the next edition is to place more emphasis on long-range plans. Some areas such as Intelligent Vehicle Highway Systems and Long Term Pavement Performance had well-established plans at the time of the first edition. Others had programs underway to redefine their agency's vision, mission, goals, and objectives in light of President Clinton's technology initiative. These efforts have been aimed at strengthening our national economy by advancing transportation technologies and creating an efficient, effective intermodal system.

In addition to more long-term programs, we also plan to include descriptions of the programs of other Federal agencies that relate to and complement those funded through the DOT budget, such as ARPA and NIST. Thus, when we talk about buses, advanced materials, or bridges, we will be able to offer a more complete picture of Federally sponsored R&D in those areas.

We have begun preparation for the next edition. RSPA has allocated funds to the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center for planning and coordination. A detailed outline has been prepared and will be reviewed by the participating administrations within the next ten days.

My colleagues and I would be pleased to answer any of your questions.