



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

February 6, 2002

The Honorable Robert A. Borski
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

BAB:
Dear Congressman Borski:

Thank you for your April 20 letter regarding the Intelligent Transportation Infrastructure Program provided for under Section 5117(b)(3) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), and expanded under Section 378 of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2001. I apologize for the delay in responding, but the Department has received, formally as well as informally, various expressions of congressional intent relating to the expansion of this program. At the same time, the Department has been aware that additional clarifying language was being proposed as part of the FY 2002 appropriations process. I felt it best to delay responding to your letter while deliberating on our understanding of congressional intent and what authority the Department had to proceed with the program.

The recent passage of the FY 2002 Defense Appropriations Act further clarifies congressional intent with regard to expansion of this program. Language contained in Section 1101 and on page 448 of the FY 2002 Defense Appropriations Act indicates that the Department has the authority to expand the program through a sole source expansion of the original procurement. I have decided to exercise this authority and facilitate the full expansion of the Intelligent Transportation Infrastructure Program by amending the existing Information Technology Omnibus Procurement contract with the team of Signal Corporation and Mobility Technologies (formerly Traffic.com).

This course of action would appear to address your specific concerns. I want to personally thank you for your support of the program and for your patience as the Department has carried out the deliberation of relevant issues related to expanding the program.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Y. Mineta", is written over the typed name.

Norman Y. Mineta