

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 1997

The Honorable Bud Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman *Bud* Shuster:

I am writing to respectfully request your support for the attached legislation which provides federal funding for an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) initiative and associated research program. The legislation will allow the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a program to advance and expedite the development of an operational ITI system for the measurement of various transportation system metrics.

Today, the Federal government is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to deploy and operate ITS projects across the country. The legislation I am submitting provides for the mainstreaming of ITS with limited federal funds by requesting the private sector to develop a system which can be deployed to more than 40 metropolitan areas across the nation at a cost not to exceed \$2,000,000 per area. Additionally, the initiative provides for a commercialization effort which will generate revenues to be shared with local DOT's, and will create a public-private partnership to fund the operating costs of the deployed ITI system. Furthermore, the associated research program will encourage the development of new technologies and manufacturing techniques for advanced transportation metrics measurement devices.

Collectively, the legislation will dramatically improve existing ITS infrastructures with new technology standardization and central network monitoring of transportation information systems. The standardization will improve the accuracy of traffic sensor data and provide a national compatibility among systems needed to build the critical mass required for commercialization of ITS networks. The result will be a commercially viable operating ITS system, capable of feeding data into a national transportation data base for use by all federal agencies.

The legislative package I am submitting reflects many of the priorities of the Committee. This program promotes increased operational efficiency and capacity of our national highway system, reduces congestion and economic waste, and improves safety. Additionally, it will reduce energy and environmental costs which accompany the traffic congestion associated with our cities. In this climate of limited funds and enormous needs, this project represents the kind of Intelligent Transportation Systems we must support to best utilize our scarce resources.

Thank you for your support of this essential legislation. Please contact Jennifer Laptook in my office with any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Borski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert A. Borski
Member of Congress