

November 13, 2017



U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Under Secretary for Policy
Attn: Strategic Plan Comments
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) is pleased to provide comments on the Draft U.S. DOT Strategic Plan for FY 2018-2022. ITE is an international membership association of transportation professionals who work to improve mobility and safety for all transportation system users and help build smart and livable communities. Through its products and services, ITE promotes professional development and career advancement for its members, supports and encourages education, identifies necessary research, develops technical resources including standards and recommended practices, develops public awareness programs, and serves as a conduit for the exchange of professional information. Founded in 1930, ITE is a community of more than 14,000 transportation professionals, including transportation engineers, transportation planners, consultants, educators, technologists, and researchers, who network through meetings, seminars, and publications.

ITE commends U.S. DOT for the overall quality of the Draft Strategic Plan and for the forward-looking goals, objectives and strategies it outlines. ITE is particularly pleased to see a continued emphasis in the plan on reducing transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries, as this aligns well with both the interests of our members and our own Vision Zero initiative which is focused on eliminating fatalities and serious injuries altogether over the coming years. Likewise, the emphasis in the Infrastructure strategic goal area on optimizing the operation and performance of existing transportation facilities aligns well with the interests and priorities of our members.

We are also pleased to see the emphasis on Innovation as a goal area in the draft plan, both in terms of conducting research and developing new technologies, and getting these research results and technologies into the hands of practitioners who can implement them. These activities will align well with existing ITE initiatives in the Smart Communities and Connected / Automated Vehicles areas. However, we are disappointed that while the plan emphasizes automated driving systems (ADS) and automated operations in other modes, it contains no mention of the deployment of connected vehicle technologies and applications. ITE believes that these applications, enabled through vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communications are important to both realize the full potential of ADS, as well as enable improvements in safety and mobility that deployment of ADS alone cannot provide.

We also believe that an important omission in the plan relates to the importance of providing multimodal transportation in communities across the United States. The transportation system plays a key role in these communities, not only in providing safe and efficient mobility, but also in providing access, choices, and the ability for residents to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle through bicycling, walking, and using public transportation. And communities that have embraced development of a multimodal transportation system have proven to be attractive to both residents and employers, and have enjoyed increased economic vitality as a result.

Institute of Transportation Engineers

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ITE's priorities include helping transportation professionals understand how their work affects people's health and quality of life and providing and promoting resources and tools to better integrate health considerations into transportation analysis, design, and decision-making. Because of the importance of these issues in communities, both large and small, we would like to see additional emphasis in the Strategic Plan on the need for a fully multimodal transportation system, as well as the specific objectives and strategies necessary to achieve this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important document that will help shape the future of transportation in the United States for years to come. ITE looks forward to continuing to work with US DOT to implement the strategies contained in the plan to improve the safety and mobility of all users of the transportation system.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn Leight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the word "Leight".

Shawn Leight
ITE International President