

Resolution 08-02

AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance

CONCERNS REGARDING RAISING TRUCK WEIGHT AND SIZE LIMITS

WHEREAS, the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance has been charged with the responsibility of providing technical leadership, guidance and support for protecting, preserving and maintaining of the America's transportation infrastructure assets, and

WHEREAS, America's four million mile highway network and six hundred thousand bridges represents an investment of over \$2 trillion dollars, and

WHEREAS, the economic vitality, security interests, and mobility of the nation depends on this transportation highway network, and

WHEREAS, protecting this investment is the highest priority of the maintenance community, and

WHEREAS, the many of our existing roads and bridges were not designed and constructed to handle the truck traffic loads which are currently being placed upon them.

WHEREAS, increasing the truck weight limits will cause an exponential increase in the rate of deterioration of our nation's pavements and bridges thereby shortening the useful service life of these pavements and structures.

WHEREAS, increasing the truck weight and size limits presents a safety concern for our nations highways and bridges, and may compromise the safety of our nation's bridges and the public that travels over them.

WHEREAS, increasing the loading on our nations bridges will require additional structural engineering analysis on all existing structures to determine their safe load carrying capacities, and may result in many of the structures being posted with new weight restrictions, alternative truck routing, and large local economic impacts,

WHEREAS, increasing the size and lengths of trucks will impact the necessity of truck routing and distribution schemes within many State and Local jurisdictions,

WHEREAS, increasing the truck weight and size limits will create additional strains on the already under-funded maintenance budgets of the Departments of Transportation in most States.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance expresses our concern regarding proposals to increase the truck weight and size limits on our nation's existing roads and bridges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance requests that the AASHTO Committee on Highways and the AASHTO Board of Directors support this resolution and direct AASHTO staff in the development of informational brochures and other media in order to explain the damaging impacts of increasing truck weights and sizes on both the physical infrastructure and the DOT budgets, and the associated safety impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance requests that the AASHTO Committee on Highways and the AASHTO Board of Directors urges that any proposed increases in the truck weight and size limits contain appropriate and equal mitigation measures and resources to ensure the protection of our existing infrastructure assets from the additional loading damages and other impacts.

July 16, 2008
Monterey, CA

Submitted by:

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