



The Coalition for Smarter Transportation (CoaST) is an organization which consists of mobility providers, municipal agencies, universities, and other transportation stakeholders committed to advancing 'Smarter Transportation'.

WHAT IS 'Smarter' Transportation?

Smarter Transportation encompasses two concepts:

1 We must be “smarter” about our transportation and infrastructure policies.

We can no longer depend on capital investment alone to fix our transportation system. At all levels of government, we need smarter transportation policies that not only look to increase investments in infrastructure, but also pave the way for a better performing transportation system. We can no longer afford to only pay for infrastructure, we must enact policies that invest in programs and projects that improve the effectiveness and/or efficiency of our transportation system

2 We must integrate ‘smarter’ technologies into the way we build, plan, and operate our transportation system.

We need to better integrate technology into our highway & transit systems. We need to look at decades-old policies and practices and reform them to incorporate and leverage new technologies and new business practices to improve performance and manage demand. Smarter Transportation addresses how to integrate these new services while protecting the public values of reducing congestion and maximizing mobility.



The Coalition for Smarter Transportation's purpose is to identify, educate, and promote 'Smarter Transportation'. We stand on the following six principles:

Performance is Smarter Transportation – Public investment should be focused on desired outcomes. Planning and funding decisions should be based around identifying and executing projects that will provide desired outcomes. Our surface transportation systems need a lot of help. Our major highways should be focused on performance gains of passenger through-put and freight through-put, rather than a continued push for vehicle through-put with one passenger per vehicle. We must also look at how we fund mobility options and ensure that investment decisions are made with a desired outcome in mind and reassess if such decisions are providing the desired outcomes.

Better Planning and Procurement is Smarter Transportation – More investment needs to be made in the processes and bodies that plan our transportation system. We need to expect more from our transportation agencies, but we need to ensure that they have the necessary resources. Policy at all levels should encourage planning that focuses on outcomes and the most effective way to achieve those outcomes. In that same context, there is a smarter way to procure innovative services to address problems and partner with those entities that can provide outcomes that are desired.

Focusing on Moving People & Freight Rather than Vehicles is Smarter Transportation – Cars are never late for a meeting or to pick up their kids. Trucks don't lose out on business because products aren't on the shelf in time, so why do we have transportation policies that focus on moving cars? Our policies should focus on moving people and goods in the most efficient way possible.

Investment in policies that drive behavioral change is Smarter Transportation. Investing in projects and programs that incentivize a change in how people travel complements our investments in infrastructure and increases the value of such investment. These critical projects are low-cost ways to maximize our capital investment and should be a part of every transportation investment.

Increased Investment in Innovation is Smarter Transportation – Technology is improving the way we do almost everything, yet in many ways, transportation agencies are yet to fully embrace innovation. Innovative technology & business practices need to be tested and deployed. A smarter transportation system includes focused investment and policies that encourage innovative solutions and business practices.

Increasing Investment in Research for Tomorrow's Technology is Smarter Transportation – We must never stop innovating. Investment should be made so that the technology of tomorrow begins in the universities, labs, and garages of today.