

2024 ACWA Stormwater Roundtable

AASHTO

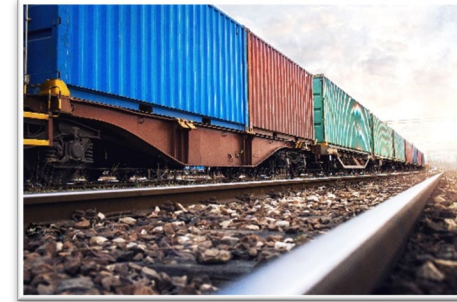
Transportation Stormwater Updates

Washington, DC | October 24, 2024

Josh Rodriguez, Program Director for Environment,
Policy and Government Relations | AASHTO

What Is AASHTO?

- Nonprofit association
- Founded in 1914
- Members include:
 - Transportation departments of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
 - 50+ Associate Members from federal, state, and local agencies and other countries
- Covers all modes: Aviation, Rail, Highways, Transit, Water, and Active Transportation



2023–2024 Association Leadership



Garrett Eucalitto
President

Commissioner,
Connecticut Department
of Transportation

Jim Tymon
Executive Director
AASHTO



Russell McMurry, PE
Treasurer

Commissioner,
Georgia Department of
Transportation

VACANT
Vice President

2023-2024 AASHTO Presidential Emphasis Areas

Transportation Together: Maximizing Investments, Safety, Workforce



CRAIG THOMPSON
 2023-2024 AASHTO President
 Secretary, Wisconsin DOT

The thing I've always found most valuable about AASHTO is the way it allows state transportation agencies from across the nation to work together.

AASHTO enables us to learn from one another, to discover new ideas and best practices, and to collaborate in finding strategic approaches to the transportation issues that impact us all.

As I consider emphasis areas for my term as AASHTO president, I want to do more than simply list a few of the important transportation issues of the day. I also want to consider how the capabilities of AASHTO as an organization, and the combined resources and expertise of its members, can be best brought to bear and enable us to work effectively together.

This is an exciting and transformational time in transportation. With historic investment in infrastructure across the nation, innovation reaching every corner of the industry, and technology evolving in unprecedented ways, we are paving the way for the future of mobility. We have the opportunity to apply innovative tools, resources, and practices to save lives. We have the opportunity to strengthen the workforce of today and tomorrow. And we have the opportunity to build a modern and efficient transportation system our citizens deserve.



The transportation industry is essential not only to meeting the needs of our everyday lives, it's also a pillar of a prosperous economy and a successful society. By using AASHTO to facilitate our collaborative efforts to get the most out of historic federal investments in infrastructure, improve safety, and develop our workforce, together we can move our transportation system into the future.

Maximizing Federal Investments Together

As we reach the mid-point of the five-year authorization of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), it is imperative that we work with our federal partners to ensure that the promise of IIJA is fully realized. While there are already transformational projects moving forward, there are also significant challenges that come with the launch of so many new federal programs and the competition for both workforce and material to build projects. We need to work together to express our urgent expectation that the federal government resolve these issues now.

AASHTO members know that investing in transportation will positively impact our economic competitiveness, save lives, improve mobility, and decrease greenhouse gases. At the same time, simply authorizing the expenditure of these funds does not in and of itself accomplish any of these goals. At the end of the day, we need to demonstrate to the American people that government at all levels can work efficiently to apply these historic investments in a way that will positively impact their lives. While the potential of IIJA and other new programs is powerful, so is the inertia if we fail to overcome bureaucratic hurdles and implementation snafus.

The country is watching what we do with this massive opportunity, and we must deliver. AASHTO can play its part by doing the following:

- Ensuring clear lines of communication and providing member input to our federal partners.
- Providing real-time feedback on the impact of federal guidance to state DOTs.
- Sharing strategies on successful applications and approaches to help local communities meet their needs with federal resources.
- Addressing issues that stand in the way of delivering every penny available under IIJA to improve lives and our climate in a way that the public can see and understand.



2 | Transportation Together



Safer Together


Today we are experiencing a crisis in which too many users of our transportation system do not make it home safely. It is imperative that we address this crisis using all means and methods at our disposal. Providing all users with safe multi-modal transportation options is our foremost priority. That is why 2024 must be the year that we harness all the data and best practices states have embarked upon to significantly move the needle on safety across the country. Moving that needle needs to be judged by fewer people dying on our roadways. A transportation network with zero deaths is our goal. Achieving that goal is our shared responsibility and collaborative action offers our best opportunity to achieve it.

Across the country, state DOTs have tremendous efforts underway to improve safety on our transportation system. Together we can build on those efforts, prevent crashes, and save lives by:

- Prioritizing safety for all transportation users across all travel options with an expanded focus on those most vulnerable.
- Providing opportunities to deepen subject-matter experts' awareness of innovative safety-related best practices, resources, and research through knowledge transfer activities.
- Fostering safety culture into all transportation roles through cross-training and communication of safety efforts.
- Supporting state DOTs to leverage innovative technology, data, and applications.
- Facilitating implementation of existing, new, and cutting-edge behavioral and engineering safety countermeasures.



2023-2024 AASHTO Presidential Emphasis Areas | 3



Building Our Workforce Together

Our workforce issues are as diverse and multifaceted as our employees themselves. Much of our existing workforce is reaching retirement age, and newer employees are staying for shorter tenures. This is occurring in a context in which all industries are facing fewer candidates, and the impact and reach of technology in the workforce is ever changing. The way things have always been done is no longer a viable option in the face of such transformational change. We must approach our workforce like we are approaching safety, with a sense of urgency.

To strengthen our workforce now and into the future, we need to:

- Develop strategies to establish state DOTs as an employer of choice by identifying innovative ways to attract, retain, engage, develop, and empower talented individuals.
- Share best practices on workforce training, modernization, and reskilling to ensure state DOTs have the right people in the right job, working on the right tasks, at the right time with the right knowledge and skills.
- Support state DOTs' efforts to advance a more equitable transportation system through increased diversity of their own workforce.
- Examine the potentially beneficial impact of artificial intelligence on the state DOT workforce.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS
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2021-2026 Strategic Plan

<https://www.aashtoplan.com/>

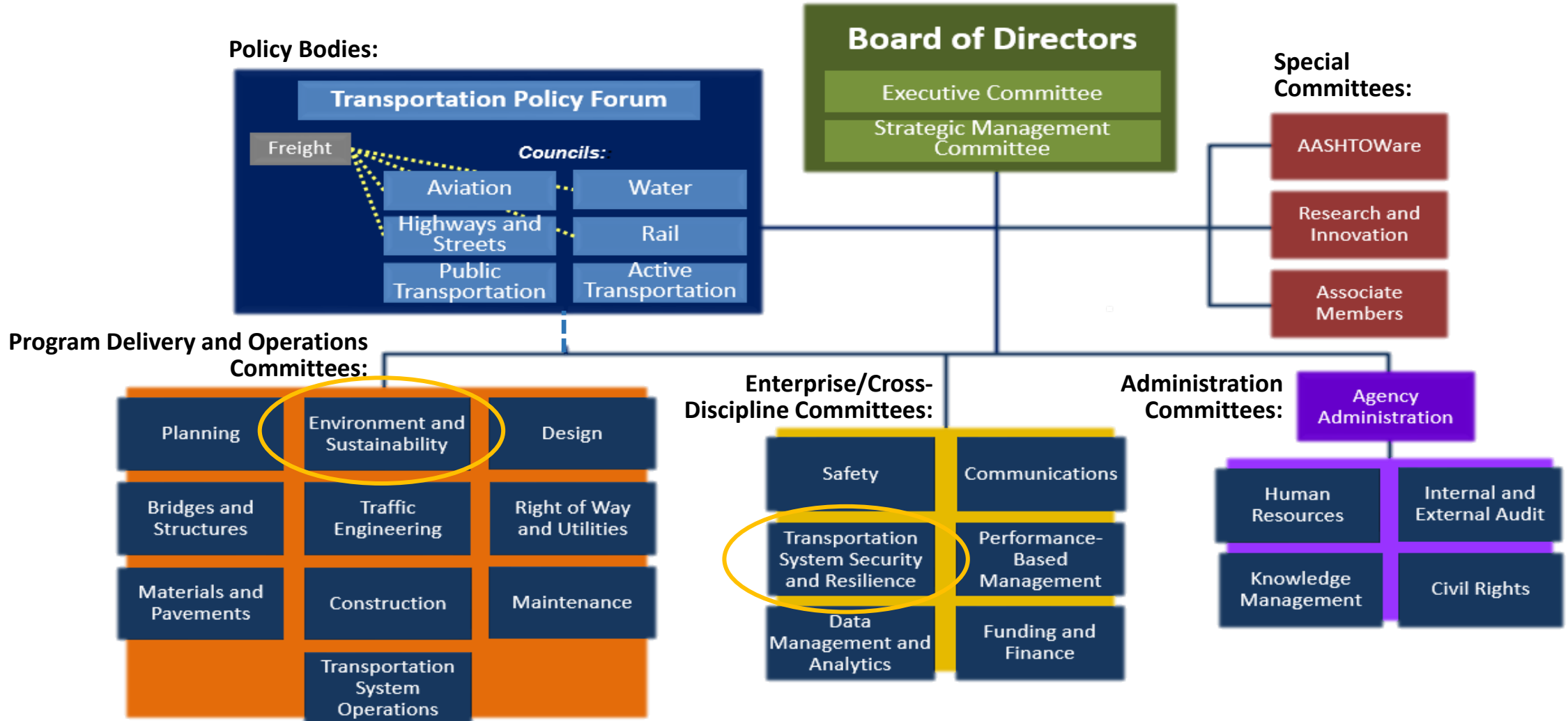
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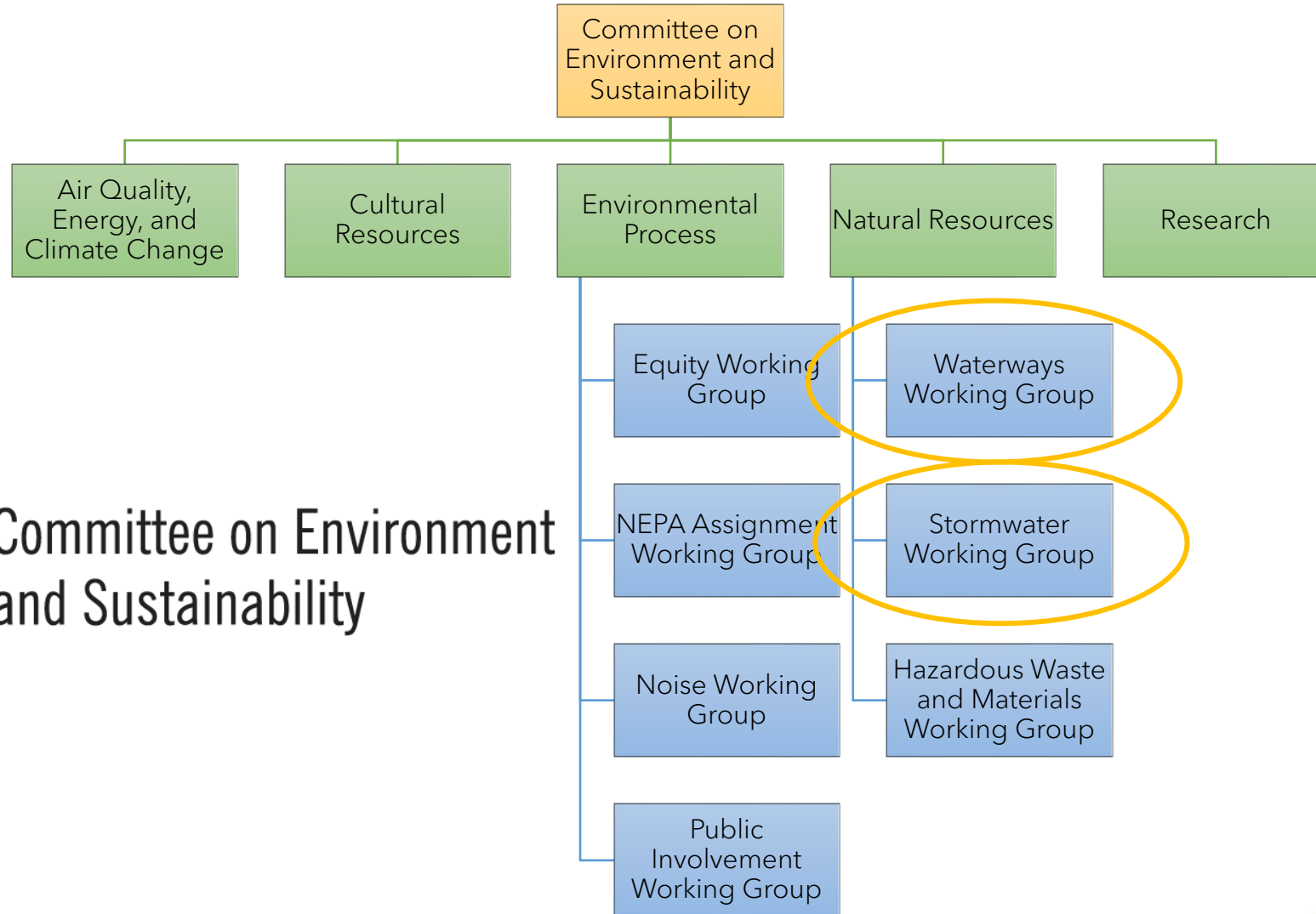
Providing improved quality of life through leadership in transportation

Mission:

Supporting State DOTs to connect America with the transportation system of today and tomorrow

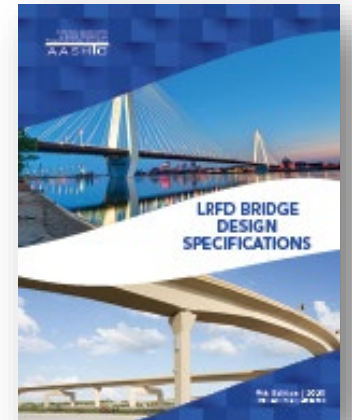
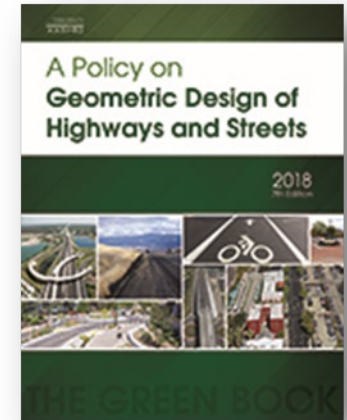






How does AASHTO Helps States?

- Develop and maintain technical standards and specifications
- Produce best practices guides and manuals
- Provides a forum for consideration on transportation issues
- Provide professional development
- Conduct surveys, provide data, and testify on legislative issues
- Technical Service Programs



How else does AASHTO work with?

The AASHTO collaborates with a variety of NGOs and associations to advance transportation initiatives.

- **American Public Transportation Association (APTA):** AASHTO collaborates with APTA to promote public transportation systems across the United States.
- **Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE):** AASHTO works with ITE on developing standards and best practices for transportation engineering.
- **Transportation Research Board (TRB):** AASHTO partners with TRB to support research and innovation in transportation.
- **American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE):** AASHTO works with ASCE on infrastructure projects and engineering standards.

These partnerships help AASHTO to foster a comprehensive and integrated transportation system across the nation.

Policy and Government Relations

Work with Congress, Executive Agencies, and industry stakeholders to represent the policy interests of all state DOTs:

- Develop legislation such as the IIJA and IRA
- Providing state DOT perspectives on implementation of federal transportation programs
- Provide input on federal rulemaking and regulations
- Build partnerships with peer associations, private sector, federal, state, and local governments, academia, etc.



Surface Reauthorization

- **October 2024:** TPF to review committee white papers; 2024 AASHTO Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- **October 2024 to March 2025:** Modal Councils and Special Committee on Freight to develop and approve their policy recommendations white paper
- **March 2025:** TPF to review Modal and Special Committee white papers; 2025 AASHTO Washington Briefing; Washington, DC
- **March 2025 to May 2025:** TPF to develop and review draft policy resolutions
- **May 2025:** TPF to deliberate on draft policy resolutions developed to date; 2025 AASHTO Spring Meeting
- **August 2025:** TPF to hold a special session to finalize and adopt draft policy resolutions for Board consideration, amend white papers as necessary, and develop legislative outreach strategy; Location TBD
- **October 2025:** AASHTO Board of Directors to consider and formally adopt policy resolutions, and amend white papers as necessary; 2025 AASHTO Annual Meeting
- **October 2025 to September 2026:** AASHTO members and staff to communicate and explain AASHTO's formal policy positions
- **September 2026:** IIJA expires on September 30, 2026



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WEBSITE

Transportation
for a Sustainable
Future

The Center for
Environmental
Excellence promotes
environmental
stewardship and

encourages
innovative ways to
achieve
environmental
excellence in the

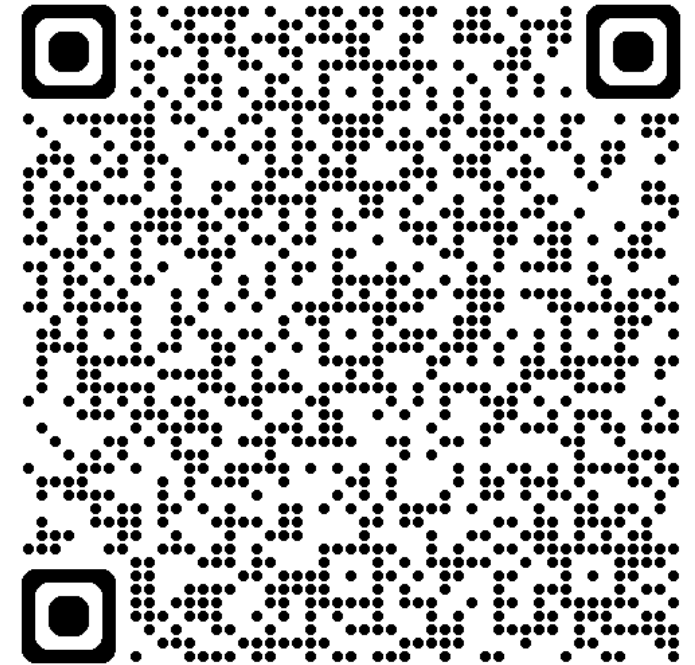
delivery of
transportation
programs, projects,
and policies.


 **ENVIRONMENTAL**
MANAGEMENT
 **RESILIENCE
& SUSTAINABILITY**
MANAGEMENT

U.S. DOT Resilience Coalition

Gather implementation-level input from stakeholders across the surface transportation industry including highways, roads, transit, rail, and ports to:

- Document gaps in knowledge, data, capacity and tools
- Identify barriers to implementing climate resilience
- Develop recommendations for next steps



Thank You

Josh Rodriguez, Program Director for Environment,
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