

September 15, 2014

SUBJECT: Massachusetts Automatic Gas Tax Increase Repeal Initiative, Question 1

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) is an international educational and scientific association of nearly 17,000 transportation professionals across 90 countries responsible for meeting mobility and safety needs for any mode of surface transportation. To address these needs and protect the public interest necessitates a predictable, dependable and adequate source of transportation funding. ITE maintains the following funding-related government policy:

- G-1. FUNDING

Supports a predictable, dependable and adequate source of transportation funding for all modes that achieves a proper balance between capital and operations/maintenance programs for transportation facilities. Funding efforts should involve all levels of government so that essential programs that promote the safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services can be maintained. ITE supports a cohesive, unified planning strategy for transportation infrastructure investment.

The Massachusetts Transportation Finance Act of 2013 helps to provide a predictable and dependable source of dedicated funding to maintain the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure. The effort to repeal this act, Question 1 on the upcoming November state ballot, jeopardizes \$1 billion available for transportation investment over the next decade.

While ITE is open to the methods in which transportation funding is obtained and provided, unless this funding source is proposed to be simultaneously replaced by a different funding source/method, ITE does not support Question 1 as it would repeal an established funding source. A predictable transportation funding strategy is a prerequisite to adequately plan for and address existing and future transportation needs. The removal of predictable funding methods will have a significant negative impact on Massachusetts' ability to address safety and mobility needs for all of its citizens and will further complicate transportation professionals' ability to mitigate the deteriorating state of the Commonwealth's infrastructure. As such ITE does not support Question 1 on this year's November ballot and recommends a "No" vote on the question.

Sincerely,



W. Hibbett Neel Jr., P.E., FITE
International President