

# **Surface Transportation Security Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**

**A Presentation to the:  
AASHTO Subcommittee on Highway Transport (SCOHT)  
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# **Presentation Summary:**

- **General information on surface transportation security**
- **Current FHWA security activities**
- **Significant security challenges**

# President Bush's Goals for America

- **Winning the war against terrorism—both at home and abroad;**
- **Protecting our homeland against future attacks; and**
- **Getting the American economy moving again.**



# **The Enormity and Significance of the Nation's Highway System**

- **Largest and most significant surface transportation mode for moving passengers and freight**
- **4 million highway miles**
- **575,000 bridges**
- **400 highway-related tunnels**
- **5 trillion passenger miles per year**
- **4 trillion freight-ton miles per year – 72 percent of everything shipped**
- **Significant emergency response role**



# **Vulnerability of the Highway System to Malevolent Attacks**

- **Enormity and openness create significant vulnerability**
- **Redundancy is a significant advantage**
- **Bridges and Tunnels most vulnerable**

# Highway System Ownership/Operation Responsibility in the United States

- State
- Local
- Private
- Federal



# **The FHWA Security Role**

- **Facilitating improved communication and creating partnerships;**
- **Assembling and distributing best practices;**
- **Providing for education, awareness and training;**
- **Engaging in coordinated Research and Development activities;**
- **Facilitating improved emergency preparedness and response**
- **Ensuring the highway system will support military deployments; and**
- **Distributing information on threats to the public and private transportation industry.**

# Several Examples of Current FHWA Security Activities

- **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Task Force on Transportation Security**
- **Bridge/Tunnel Vulnerability panel and teams**
- **Emergency preparedness and response workshops**
- **Freight operational tests to improve cargo security**

**AASHTO**



# **Several Examples of Current FHWA Security Activities (continued)**

- **“Table-top exercises” to improve military deployment**
- **Strengthening security at our Canadian and Mexican borders**
- **Coordinating with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on an initiative to protect sensitive security information**
- **Homeland Security Advisory System implementation**

# **Conclusion: Security Challenges**

- **Determination of most-critical highway infrastructure, its vulnerability, and appropriate countermeasures to reduce vulnerability;**
- **Developing technology for structural hardening;**
- **Evaluating the priority of funding security initiatives;**
- **Maintaining a strong focus on emergency preparedness and response**
- **Clarifying federal, state, local and private industry security roles**