

## OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Research and Technology Subcommittee Hearing:  
*The Future of Surface Transportation*

June 18, 2014

Good morning, I would like to thank the Chairman for holding today's hearing to examine the impact of research and technology on the future of transportation.

Our economy depends on our ability to move people and goods efficiently from one point to another. I have been representing the Dallas area in Congress for over 20 years. Our central location helps attract multinational corporations. Dallas is home to major sports and entertainment venues and has a world class hospital system.

This year we had the third largest population increase in the nation and the third busiest airport in the world. We have five interstate highways, a growing transit system, and a major rail corridor. In fact, Dallas was the capstone city for Secretary Foxx's national bus tour earlier this year highlighting the importance of transportation investment across the country.

Alongside the bricks and mortar infrastructure investments, continuing investments in transportation research and development will be critical to the future viability of this thriving city and the cities across the nation.

The nation's Interstate Highway System, a significant achievement of the Eisenhower Administration, is now nearly 60 years old. Our state DOTs are constantly repairing the decades-long wear and tear we have put on our roads, bridges, and tunnels. While growth across the country increases jobs and revenue, it also increases traffic congestion, accidents, and air pollution.

Fortunately, we are approaching a turning point in transportation technology and innovation. The ideas that our witnesses will share today, including vehicle-to-vehicle communications systems, have the potential to help reduce American's commute times, reduce accidents on our highways and railroads, and reduce emissions.

As a longtime supporter of public transportation, including Dallas Area Rapid Transit, I am also interested in hearing about the Department's innovative transit research, including how ridesharing may be changing our thoughts on public transportation. As transportation continues to become more high tech, it is important that we incorporate transportation applications in the teaching of STEM fields so that our students are prepared to join the workforce in this important area.

As more students look to transportation as a field of study, we should make sure policies are in place to support long-term research that will lead to revolutionary improvements in the safety and efficiency of our transportation systems. To reap the benefits of this paradigm-shifting research, my colleagues and I must come together from both sides of the aisle to support a multi-year, bipartisan transportation reauthorization bill that includes strong research provisions.

We can and should act now with sensible public policies to secure jobs, create growth, and provide for safe, clean, and efficient transportation. Again, I thank the witnesses for being here today and look forward to their testimony.