



A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



President Clinton has challenged the nation, stating that "today is not a time to rest but to build." With vision and vigilance, we at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) are meeting that challenge, building on our record of achievement and pursuing excellence into the new century.

In stating that, it is my pleasure to present the DOT's Consolidated Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 1999. This document highlights achievements made throughout the year that met DOT's Strategic Goals of *enhancing safety, improving mobility, promoting economic growth and trade, protecting our environment and supporting national security*.

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) embodies President Clinton's vision of an integrated transportation system helping to ensure Americans' prosperity and quality of life into the new century and reaffirms President Clinton's commitment to rebuilding America by providing a record, balanced investment in our highways, transit systems and intermodal facilities.

This historic legislation reflects President Clinton's view that transportation is about more than concrete, asphalt and steel: it is about people, and about providing them with the opportunity to lead safer, healthier and more fulfilling lives.

TEA-21 protects Americans' health and safety through programs to increase seat belt use, improve truck safety, reduce crashes at

rail-highway crossings and prevent pipeline explosions. It also fights drunk driving through incentives to encourage States to adopt tough 0.08 percent blood alcohol concentration standards.

This legislation strengthens proven strategies to safeguard public health and the environment, such as the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program to help communities clean their air, transportation enhancements to help them improve their quality of life, and new technologies, such as less polluting vehicles and intelligent transportation systems.

Finally, TEA-21 expands opportunity for all Americans through a new Access to Jobs program to help those making the transition from welfare rolls to payrolls; a continued, effective Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program; and strong labor protections for workers on transportation projects.

I look forward to working with Congress and our partners in State and local government and the private sector to make our joint vision a reality.

For over 200 years, Federal programs have aimed to advance various parts of our nation's transportation system, and for more than 30 years we have been doing it collectively in a single Department. What DOT has accomplished throughout Fiscal Year 1999 ensures a safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the 21st century.

Rodney E. Slater