

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)
Hearing on the Future of Surface Transportation**

Chairman Smith: Thank you Chairman Bucshon for holding today's hearing.

The future of America's transportation systems is rooted in the effective development and use of new technologies. Technology allows us to enhance both the capacity and safety of our roadways, to better control traffic congestion, and to extend the life of our transportation infrastructure.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012 outlines the Department of Transportation's research, development and technology priorities. These priorities include promoting safety, reducing congestion, improving mobility, preserving the environment and existing transportation systems, enhancing the durability of our infrastructure, and improving movement along our transportation systems.

Taxpayer investments in these areas should be targeted to achieve desired outcomes. The investments we make today will transform the future of transportation. One example is the development of intelligent transportation systems. Such cutting edge concepts encompass a broad range of information and communications technologies that have the potential to improve the safety, efficiency, and performance of our nation's transportation system.

In my home state of Texas, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) works to develop interdisciplinary solutions to the challenges that face all modes of transportation. TTI has saved the state of Texas and the United States billions of dollars and thousands of lives through innovative strategies and products developed through its research and implementation programs. For example, TTI conducts groundbreaking research to explore the interaction between driver, cell phone and roadway, and assesses the dangers and causes of distracted driving.

The problems studied at TTI are good examples of how science can yield solutions to societal problems. It shows that efficient, targeted R&D can help develop new innovative ideas and technologies that will make our transportation systems safer.

I look forward to the witnesses' testimony and thank them for their participation this morning. And I yield back.