

**Resolution for the creation of the
LATTS International Trade and Transportation Institute**

WHEREAS, the Latin American Trade and Transportation Study (LATTS) has evidenced the importance of international trade to the nation's economy;

WHEREAS, the LATTS Alliance region's gateways and transportation corridors handle a significant share of international trade;

WHEREAS, the Alliance states, as the nexus of NAFTA trade, play a unique role in growing the national economy while protecting national security, enabling the nation to receive significant benefits that include jobs, economic output, and tax revenues from trade in agricultural and manufactured goods and products;

WHEREAS, Alliance states, regions and gateway communities bear a disproportionate share of the cost and congestion impacts in handling international trade, including transportation system demands and infrastructure deterioration, safety and security challenges, environmental pollution, and community disruption;

WHEREAS, LATTS identified the need for States' Department of Transportation to have the capacity to plan for and fund transportation investments to accommodate and promote international trade in general;

WHEREAS, LATTS evaluated strategies and recommended multi-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination in addressing needs associated with increasing international trade;

WHEREAS, the formation of the LATTS International Trade and Transportation Institute (LATTS Institute) is vital to the Alliance region's ability to accomplish the strategies set forth in LATTS;

WHEREAS, a director for the Institute must be named to advance trade and transportation issues in the region;

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Association of Highway Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Board of Directors will be the governing body for the LATTS Institute responsible for general oversight;

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the development of the full role and functions of such an entity transpires over time, the initial effort for the Institute will build upon by LATTS by identifying critical trade and transportation priorities;

WHEREAS, one of the early initiatives will be to expand the role and resources of the Institute by identifying additional funding opportunities at the Federal level and potential teaming partners;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

LATTS has identified the need for States' Department of Transportation to plan for and fund transportation infrastructure investments to accommodate and promote of international trade in general. Ensuring safe, efficient and seamless transportation is critical to the economic future of the Alliance states. To facilitate this need, the Alliance Region calls for the following:

- (1) The establishment of the LATTS Institute for the purpose of assisting States with the planning and funding of transportation investments necessary to accommodate and promote international trade and the movement of freight;
- (2) The Chairman of the LATTS Steering Committee be asked to lead the effort to identify a candidate director to lead the LATTS Institute;
- (3) SASHTO to be named as the governing body while a more permanent structure is developed;
- (4) The investigation of potential partnering arrangements with organizations of similar purpose such as Pan-American Institute of Highways or Centers of University Transportation Research;
- (5) The sunset of the Institute in two years pending passage of a continuing resolution.
- (6) The LATTS States support the LATTS Institute with \$25,000 in SPR-pooled funds for a term of two years.