



National Safety Council

Position/Policy Statement

The Highway Trust Fund

Adequate funds must exist to maintain and improve the nation's highway system to achieve mobility with safety. In furtherance of this objective, the National Safety Council supports the continuation of the Highway Trust Fund and necessary increases in highway user revenues to restore the purchasing power of the fund that is being lost through inflation and reduced tax revenues.

Improved highways are an important element of efforts to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries. For example, roads which are built to the highest safety standards, such as those on the Interstate Highway System, have a significantly lower fatality rate than roads built to less stringent design criteria.

The Highway Trust Fund, which has been the source of financing for federal-aid highway programs for more than 20 years, was intended to assure that highway system upgrading would continue. In addition to financing safety improvements made as a part of regular highway construction projects, Trust Fund revenues also provide vital support for special roadway safety projects, traffic safety research, development and demonstrations, and state and community safety grant programs. Under present authorizations, an average of more than \$1.5 billion annually is earmarked for specific safety projects out of the Trust Fund.

To help assure that a continuing investment is made in highway development and safety efforts, the Trust Fund should be maintained as the primary source of federal highway financing. In addition, efforts must be made to increase other highway user revenues for the Fund to restore the purchasing power that is being lost from inflation, escalating construction and maintenance costs, and the reduced fuel tax revenues which are resulting from energy conservation efforts.

This position statement reflects the opinions of the National Safety Council but not necessarily those of each member organization.

Approved by Board of Directors, October 21, 1980