



**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515**

Don Young
Chairman

ACTION
<i>FHW</i>
010328-022
CONTROL NO.

James L. Oberstar
Ranking Democratic Member

Lloyd A. Jones, Chief of Staff
Michael Stueben, Deputy Chief of Staff

March 26, 2001

David Reynolds, Democratic Chief of Staff

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write concerning an issue that has arisen regarding one portion of Section 378 of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2001, P.L. 106-346.

In the provision in question, Congress earmarked \$50 million for "the intelligent transportation system infrastructure program as authorized by Section 5117(b) of P.L. 105-178" (TEA 21). This provision was added at the request of the Chairman Shuster of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The intent of this provision was clear, that the funds were earmarked for the same exact purpose as were the funds authorized by Section 5117(b) of TEA 21. The intent of Section 5117(b) of TEA 21 is even clearer. That provision provided funding for the deployment of a particular intelligent transportation system. A company named Traffic.com was the successful bidder for this program. The additional funding provided in Section 378 of P.L. 106-346 was to supplement the funding for the deployment in additional metropolitan areas of that exact same intelligent transportation system.

It has come to my attention that the agency within the Department of Transportation responsible for implementing these provisions, the Joint Program Office, believes that the funds made available by Section 378 of P.L. 106-346 should be available to be allocated to other intelligent transportation system projects. This is directly contrary to the language and intent of Section 378. A similar view has been expressed to the Department by Senator Warner and by former Congressman Shuster's Chief of Staff.

I urge you to honor the express language of Section 378 and the clear intent of Congress and provide the additional funding to the project awarded the funding made available in Section 5117(b) of TEA 21.

Sincerely,
Don Young
DON YOUNG
Chairman