

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW CARD
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN
MARCH 7, 1992

- Governor John Engler's "Build Michigan" program will help get Traverse City, Grand Rapids, Detroit, and other Great Lakes cities and towns back in the passing lane.
- "Build Michigan" is going to do more than simply upgrade roads and bridges as Governor Engler pointed out. It's going to help put Michigan back to work.
- It will create good paying jobs. It will speed the shipment of good and services -- especially those in the auto industry -- to neighboring states and foreign lands. It will bring workers to factories, students to schools, and equally important, tourists to Michigan's vacation areas -- areas such as Sleeping Bear Dunes and so many other beautiful spots up and down western Michigan.
- The upgrading of US 131 is a vital part of "Build Michigan." This long term plan to widen this 200-mile lifeline is an excellent example of how state and federal governments, and their DOTs, are working together as partners to boost the economy.
- "Build Michigan" is what President Bush envisioned when he signed ISTEA. When the President signed

the Bill, he opened the door for \$12 million in obligations to state and local governments. He also ordered us at DOT to expedite the release of these dollars.

- What does this mean for Michigan? Michigan gets \$454 million in surface transportation funds -- an increase of 25 percent compared to FY 1991. And that translates into some 26,000 good paying jobs.
- Michigan has already obligated 30 percent -- \$125 million -- of available funds. And more projects are flowing off the planning board and into construction sites each week.
- ISTEA means more to Michigan than jobs though -- it focuses investment on a 155,000 mile National Highway system. And a well maintained network of nationally-significant highways will help us get Michigan goods to market faster -- whether across the street or across the international time zone.
- It also does something I think is long overdue and which Governor Engler strongly agrees with -- putting more power in the hands of state and local officials to decide how transportation dollars are invested. Be they for highways or mass transit.

- Moreover, ISTEA offers greater opportunities for private sector involvement in rebuilding Michigan's transportation system -- be it operating or building toll roads.
- Finally, the President's signing of the new Act increases our investment in dynamic new technological developments -- such as "smart cars" and "smart highways" -- which will revolutionize our automotive and car parts industries.
- Overall, as President Bush said, "mobility is the life blood of the modern economy." And what we are doing here in Michigan, is giving the state a major blood transfusion.

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