



U.S. Department of  
Transportation

9m 493

# News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY  
January 16, 1985

FHWA 01-85  
Contact: Eric L. Bolton  
Telephone: (202) 426-0660

## FHWA & NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION TEAM UP TO ENCOURAGE UNIFORMITY IN STATE REGULATION AND TAXATION OF TRUCKS

Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Hanford Dole today announced that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has entered into an agreement with the National Governors' Association (NGA) to develop uniform motor carrier regulation and taxation administrative procedures for voluntary adoption by the states.

The amount to be expended under the agreement is \$1.5 million, of which FHWA's share is \$783,342. The states, through the NGA, are providing the remaining amount with in-kind services.

Secretary Dole said the contract is a major step toward realizing the mutual goals of the NGA, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and FHWA to improve the operating environment of the trucking industry. "Over time, state motor carrier registration and taxation regulations have evolved into a complex, duplicative, and conflicting set of reporting requirements for the industry. This maze of regulations hampers the productivity of the interstate trucking industry and adversely impacts shippers and consumers alike."

The 18-month contract will help fund a special task force within NGA (known as the Working Group on State Truck Issues) to develop an action plan to establish nationwide uniformity in state taxation and regulation of trucks. Representatives from the trucking industry will also participate in an advisory capacity.

The Working Group—composed of state motor vehicle, revenue and transportation officials—is concentrating its efforts in four specific areas: vehicle registration, fuel use taxation procedures, other motor carrier taxes and fees, and uniformity within state boundaries.

- more -

Specific contract terms call for development of a blueprint of state administrative procedures and recommendations to achieve voluntary uniformity of motor carrier regulations among the states.

FHWA Administrator Ray A. Barnhart praised the leadership role of the NGA in the effort to unravel the maze of conflicting and repetitive state truck registration rules. He added that he was encouraged by the voluntary nature of the initiative by the states to achieve uniform motor carrier regulation.

"A successful state effort, aided by the contract we are awarding today, will largely accomplish our national objective to reduce the burden on interstate motor carriers, as well as the administrative burden on the states, while minimizing the federal role in this area," Barnhart said. He concluded, "The American consumer will be the ultimate beneficiary of these efforts."

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**Federal Highway  
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M-493



U.S. Department of  
Transportation

# News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY  
February 22, 1985

FHWA 05-85  
Contact: Eric L. Bolton  
Telephone: (202) 426-0660

## BMCS REQUIRES EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN PASSENGER-CARRYING VEHICLES

The Federal Highway Administration's Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety (BMCS) today announced that foreign operators of buses and other commercial passenger-carrying vehicles must now carry evidence of adequate insurance when operating within the United States.

The new rule, mandated by the Motor Carrier Safety Act of 1984, requires that Mexican and Canadian bus operators entering the United States must carry at all times a copy of BMCS's Form MCS-90B, "Endorsement for Motor Carrier Policies of Insurance for Public Liability."

Under the 1984 Motor Carrier Safety Act, the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the Treasury are directed to deny entry into the U.S. to any foreign-domiciled bus or other commercial passenger-carrying vehicle which does not have a copy of the endorsement form on board.

The final rule, entitled "Minimum Levels of Financial Responsibility for Motor Carriers of Passengers," became effective upon publication in the February 20 Federal Register.

For further information, contact Neill L. Thomas, Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590, telephone (202) 426-9767.

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U.S. Department of  
Transportation

# News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY  
February 27, 1985

FHWA 06-85  
Contact: Eric L. Bolton  
Telephone: (202) 426-0660

## FHWA REPORTS INCREASE IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984

Federal Highway Administrator Ray A. Barnhart today announced that highway construction costs increased 7.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 1984, bringing the annual index for the entire calendar year to 155, a 5.8 percent increase over the 146.5 annual index recorded for CY 1983.

The fourth quarter results for 1984 bring the Federal Highway Administration's composite index for highway construction costs to 166 percent of the 1977 base index (1977 average costs equal 100 percent). The composite index for the fourth quarter of 1984 shows an increase of 10.9 percent over the fourth quarter of 1983.

Increases in unit prices for roadway excavation, pavement surfacing, and structural concrete resulted in most of the rise in the index. A contributing factor was the increased proportion of urban projects and repair and reconstruction contracts (which tend to have higher unit prices) awarded in the fourth quarter.

The three-quarter moving composite price index for the third quarter of 1984 -- obtained by combining data for the last three quarters of 1984 -- increased 3.4 percent from the previous three-quarter average.

Trends in highway construction costs are measured by an index of average contract prices compiled from reports of state highway contract awards for federal-aid contracts (other than those for the Secondary System) greater than \$500,000.

- more -

The composite price indices during the past two years and the percentage changes from the preceding quarter have been as follows:

	(Three-quarter moving index)			
	Quarterly Price Index	Percentage Change	Three-quarter Moving Index	Percentage Change
*4th quarter, 1982	146.1	--	147.4	+0.2
1st quarter, 1983	148.1	+1.4	145.5	-1.3
2nd quarter, 1983	143.1	-3.4	145.6	+0.1
3rd quarter, 1983	146.8	+2.6	146.3	+0.5
4th quarter, 1983	149.7	+2.0	148.4	+1.4
1st quarter, 1984	149.3	-0.3	150.4	+1.3
2nd quarter, 1984	152.1	+1.9	151.8	+0.9
3rd quarter, 1984	154.4	+1.5	156.9	+3.4
4th quarter, 1984	166.0	+7.5	--	--

\*For the three-quarter moving index, these are the middle quarters of the three-quarter periods.

The price levels of the component items of the quarterly index in the fourth quarter of 1984, the previous quarter, and the same quarter a year ago, and the corresponding percentage changes, are shown in the following table:

	Price Index 1977=100		Percentage change this quarter from:		
	Fourth Quarter 1984	Third Quarter 1984	Fourth Quarter 1983	Third Quarter 1984	Fourth Quarter 1983
Excavation.....	184.4	163.2	153.1	+13.0	+20.4
Surfacing:					
Portland cement concrete..	153.8	140.6	128.3	+ 9.4	+19.9
Bituminous concrete.....	182.4	176.6	160.3	+ 3.3	+13.8
Composite surfacing....	173.3	165.1	150.1	+ 5.0	+15.5
Structures:					
Reinforcing steel.....	152.6	149.6	146.3	+ 2.0	+ 4.3
Structural steel.....	137.5	136.9	145.7	+ 0.4	- 5.6
Structural concrete.....	160.2	141.6	149.5	+13.1	+ 7.2
Composite structures...	151.1	141.3	147.6	+ 6.9	+ 2.4
Composite price index.....	166.0	154.4	149.7	+ 7.5	+10.9

- more -

The price levels of the current component items of the three-quarter moving index in the third quarter of 1984, the previous quarter, and the same quarter a year ago, and the corresponding percentage changes, are shown in the following table:

	Three Quarter Moving Price Index 1977=100			Percentage change this quarter from:	
	Third Quarter 1984	Second Quarter 1984	Third Quarter 1983	Second Quarter 1984	Third Quarter 1983
	Excavation.....	170.2	157.1	148.3	+8.3
Surfacing:					
Portland cement concrete..	140.3	133.6	128.1	+5.0	+ 9.5
Bituminous concrete.....	173.8	168.8	156.2	+3.0	+11.3
Composite surfacing....	163.1	157.5	147.2	+3.6	+10.8
Structures:					
Reinforcing steel.....	149.9	149.4	145.9	+0.3	+ 2.7
Structural steel.....	135.3	135.8	136.0	-0.4	- 0.5
Structural concrete.....	150.7	148.9	149.9	+1.2	+ 0.5
Composite structures...	145.3	144.5	144.5	+0.6	+ 0.6
Composite price index.....	156.9	151.8	146.3	+3.4	+ 7.2

The U.S. Average contract unit prices for the index items during the various periods shown are:

	Unit	Individual Quarters		Three Quarters	
		3rd Qtr. 1984	4th Qtr. 1984	2nd Qtr. 1984*	3rd Qtr. 1984**
Excavation....	Cu.Yd.	\$1.90	\$2.15	\$1.83	\$1.98
PCC surface...	Sq.Yd.	\$13.99	\$15.31	\$13.29	\$13.96
Bit. conc. surf.	Ton	\$27.32	\$28.22	\$26.11	\$26.89
Str. reinf.....	Lb.	\$0.407	\$0.415	\$0.407	\$0.408
Str. steel.....	Lb.	\$0.712	\$0.715	\$0.706	\$0.704
Str. concrete...	Cu.Yd.	\$203.18	\$229.84	\$213.74	\$216.31

\*Weighted average unit prices for the first three quarters of 1984.

\*\*Weighted average unit prices for last three quarters of 1984.

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U.S. Department of  
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# News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20590

*M-493*

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY  
May 17, 1985

FHWA 12-85  
Contact: Eric L. Bolton  
Telephone: (202) 426-0660

## FHWA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 1985 AWARDS FOR RIDESHARING

State employees in New Mexico, the Winston-Salem Transit Authority in North Carolina, and the Hughes Aircraft Company of El Segundo, California, are doing something to relieve traffic congestion (and commuter frustration) during morning and evening rush hours.

All three have successful ridesharing programs in place, saving commuters time, money and frazzled nerves, and each has won the Federal Highway Administration's Administrator's Award for Ridesharing this year.

"These Ridesharing Award winners come from both the public and private sectors and reflect the strong commitment and support each organization has invested in the development of ridesharing programs," FHWA Administrator Ray A. Barnhart said. "I believe that these programs serve as exemplary models which help encourage the expansion of similar ridesharing programs throughout the nation."

The Award was established in 1982 by FHWA to honor organizations that have made significant contributions to advancing ridesharing as a cost-effective transportation system.

More than 25 nominations for the Award for 1985 were received. Judging was on the basis of achievement, innovation, comprehensiveness, and commitment.

The 1985 winners, each of whom will receive a special plaque, are:

State Employees Commuter Association, Inc., (SECA), New Mexico - Begun in 1975, the SECA is the leading vanpool organization in the state of New Mexico with 58 vanpools currently on the road. The SECA is currently serving the commuting needs of over 700 individuals statewide, saving an estimated 847,068 gallons of gasoline and \$3,756,375 per year. The program includes many volunteers who participate in accounting sessions, rideshare matching activities, and computer operations.

- more -

Winston-Salem Transit Authority, North Carolina - Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) is a full service ridesharing program that has turned the city into a ridesharing-oriented city during the prime-time driving periods of morning and evening rush hours. Currently, 44 percent of all rush hour commuters travelling to and from work in the city use some form of ridesharing (38 percent in carpools and vanpools; 6 percent use transit). In addition to promoting ridesharing, WSTA operates 10 leased vanpools.

Hughes Aircraft Company, El Segundo, California - Started in 1981, Hughes Aircraft began with five vans and increased to 161 by 1984 (an increase of 322 percent). Presently, 23 percent of the employees rideshare, producing an estimated savings of 5,055,881 gallons of gasoline, 1,476 parking spaces, and \$7,206,084. The program involves vanpools, a company-administered bus program, carpools, an interplant shuttle system, priority parking, and the only HOV lane on private property in the state.

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# News:

M-493

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY  
June 14, 1985

FHWA 13-85  
Contact: Eric L. Bolton  
Tel.: (202) 426-0660

## ENGINEERING STUDENTS UNDERTAKE HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROJECTS AT FHWA

Administrator Ray A. Barnhart today announced that 27 engineering students will be conducting a wide range of highway research projects this year for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under the agency's "Grants for Research Fellowships" program.

"When their individual projects are completed," Barnhart said, "the students will have earned academic credit while gaining invaluable experience in their chosen fields.

"Through this new FHWA program of research grants for students, I believe a pool of talent will be created which will help federal and state highway agencies, private industry and universities to fill the critical shortage of practitioners and faculty in the highway engineering field." He added that the program has already been successful in extending and strengthening the ties between FHWA and the academic community.

The 1985 grant awards involve projects in areas such as highway design and engineering, highway safety, construction techniques, materials testing and evaluation, among others.

The student research program is offered on an annual basis to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. Funds for this year's Fellowships program will total \$232,000.

Barnhart said that most students will conduct their projects at FHWA's Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center in McLean, Va, and that it will encourage many students — especially those at the undergraduate level — to pursue highway-related careers.

Fellowship recipients and their areas of study are:

- more -

- Samuel Olumide Adeniji** **Morgan State University**  
Research Project: Synthesis of Certification of Highway Engineering Technician Practices
- James J. Adler** **Syracuse University**  
Research Project: Interactive Microcomputer Program for Surface Water Profile Calculations
- Hameed Abdul Asghar** **George Washington University**  
Research Project: The Effects of Drainage Depressions and Other Terrain Features on the Performance of Concrete Median Barriers
- Nabih Elias Bedewi** **University of Maryland**  
Research Project: Mechanics of Traffic Barriers
- Patrick Terence Cannon** **Kentucky State University**  
Research Project: Survey of Measures Used to Mitigate Social Impacts Resulting From Highway Projects
- Jay Scott Decker** **University of Idaho**  
Research Project: Microcomputer Design of Storm Water Drainage Systems
- Mostafa Kamal A. Elnahal** **University of Virginia**  
Research Project: Structural Testing and Evaluation of an Innovative Highway Bridge Model
- William Francis Gorman** **University of Wyoming**  
Research Project: Evaluation of the Effect of Drainage on Rigid Pavement Performance
- Monty G. Grubb** **Old Dominion University**  
Research Project: Evaluation of Selected Physiological Measures as Indicators of Driver Stress and Loading
- Derek B. Joost** **University of Maryland**  
Research Project: Development of Microcomputer Capability for Emergency Preparedness
- Toofan Khorsandi** **George Mason University**  
Research Project: Traffic Evaluator System Software Development (22L1-142)
- Gary W. Kinchen** **New Mexico State University**  
Research Project: Structural Culvert Design Programs
- Simon Osita Kokelu** **Tennessee State University**  
Research Project: Pavement Deflection Evaluation
- Steven A. Kreiser** **University of Virginia**  
Research Project: The Effects of Turbulence on Suspended Span Bridge Aerodynamics





U.S. Department of  
Transportation

M-493

# News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, June 18, 1985

FHWA 15-85

Contact: Linda J. Brown  
Telephone: (202) 426-2930  
Eric L. Bolton  
Telephone: (202) 426-0660

## FHWA EXPANDS HIGHWAY RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Federal Highway Administrator Ray A. Barnhart announced today that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is expanding opportunities for America's black colleges and universities to participate in federally-sponsored highway research activities.

Barnhart said four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) — Jackson State University in Mississippi, Central State University in Ohio, Knoxville College in Tennessee, and the Pine Bluff campus of the University of Arkansas — have been selected to participate in the Technology Transfer Center program, one of 39 projects funded under FHWA's Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP). With the selection of these four HBCUs and the University of Wyoming, FHWA's technology transfer program now includes 28 Centers operating in as many states around the country.

These five new Centers are expected to educate and train rural transportation agencies through a variety of technology transfer methods, including the production of newsletters, user manuals and guidelines, and other publications, conducting on-site demonstrations and training workshops, and developing special studies to aid rural areas in new highway technology.

"As part of this agency's on-going HBCU program, we are committed to increasing the participation of the nation's leading black colleges and universities in a wide-range of highway research activities and information exchange programs," Barnhart said.

A brochure, describing the RTAP and related contract and career opportunities for black colleges and universities, has been developed by FHWA. For additional information on FHWA's Historically Black Colleges and Universities program, contact Mrs. Linda J. Brown, HBCU Coordinator, FHWA, Office of Civil Rights (HCR-20), 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590, telephone (202) 426-2930.

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**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

# News:

M-493

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY  
October 22, 1985

FHWA 19-85  
Contact: Eric L. Bolton  
Tel.: (202) 426-0660

**FHWA REPORTS INCREASE IN  
ROAD CONSTRUCTION COSTS  
FOR THIRD QUARTER OF 1985**

Federal Highway Administrator Ray A. Barnhart today announced that highway construction costs increased 0.8 percent in the third quarter of 1985.

The third quarter results bring the Federal Highway Administration's composite index for highway construction costs to 175.3 percent of the 1977 base index (1977 average costs equal 100 percent).

Increases in average unit prices for bituminous concrete, structural steel and structural concrete offset lower prices for common excavation, Portland cement concrete surfacing and reinforcing steel.

The three-quarter moving composite price index for the second quarter of 1985 -- obtained by combining data for the first three quarters of 1985 -- increased 2.1 percent from the previous three-quarter average.

Trends in highway construction costs are measured by an index of average contract prices compiled from reports of state highway contract awards for Federal-aid contracts (other than those for the Secondary System) greater than \$500,000.

- more -

The composite price indices during the past 2 years and the percentage changes from the preceding quarter have been as follows:

	(Three-quarter moving index)			
	Quarterly Price Index	Percentage Change	Three-quarter Moving Index	Percentage Change
*3rd quarter, 1983	146.8	--	146.3	+0.5
4th quarter, 1983	149.7	+2.0	148.4	+1.4
1st quarter, 1984	149.3	-0.3	150.4	+1.3
2nd quarter, 1984	152.1	+1.9	151.8	+0.9
3rd quarter, 1984	154.4	+1.5	156.9	+3.4
4th quarter, 1984	166.0	+7.5	162.3	+3.4
1st Quarter, 1985	168.1	+1.3	168.8	+4.0
2nd Quarter, 1985	173.9	+3.5	172.3	+2.1
3rd Quarter, 1985	175.3	+0.8	--	--

\*For the three-quarter moving index, these are the middle quarters of the three-quarter periods.

\* \* \* \* \*

The price levels of the component items of the quarterly index in the third quarter of 1985, the previous quarter, and the same quarter a year ago, and the corresponding percentage changes, are shown in the following table:

	Price Index 1977=100			Percentage change this quarter from:	
	Third Quarter 1985	Second Quarter 1985	Third Quarter 1984	Second Quarter 1985	Third Quarter 1984
Excavation.....	191.9	197.0	163.2	= 2.6	+17.6
Surfacing:					
Portland cement concrete..	144.7	148.3	140.6	= 2.4	+ 2.9
Bituminous concrete.....	187.3	180.2	176.6	+ 3.9	+ 6.1
Composite surfacing....	173.7	170.0	165.1	+ 2.2	+ 5.2
Structures:					
Reinforcing steel.....	156.3	163.2	149.6	= 4.2	+ 4.5
Structural steel.....	161.1	158.4	136.9	+ 1.7	+17.7
Structural concrete.....	177.8	171.9	141.6	+ 3.4	+25.6
Composite structures...	168.5	165.8	141.3	+ 1.6	+19.2
Composite price index.....	175.3	173.9	154.4	+ 0.8	+13.5

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The price levels of the current component items of the three-quarter moving index in the second quarter of 1985, the previous quarter, and the same quarter a year ago, and the corresponding percentage changes, are shown in the following table:

	Three Quarter Moving Price Index 1977=100			Percentage change this quarter from:	
	Second Quarter 1985	First Quarter 1985	Second Quarter 1984	First Quarter 1985	Second Quarter 1984
	Excavation.....	191.3	188.8	157.1	+ 1.3
Surfacing:					
Portland cement concrete..	143.4	144.9	133.6	- 1.0	+ 7.3
Bituminous concrete.....	183.1	181.4	168.8	+ 0.9	+ 8.5
Composite surfacing....	170.4	169.8	157.5	+ 0.4	+ 8.2
Structures:					
Reinforcing steel.....	164.6	163.8	149.4	+ 0.5	+10.2
Structural steel.....	155.1	146.3	135.8	+ 6.0	+14.2
Structural concrete.....	171.2	165.0	148.9	+ 3.8	+15.0
Composite structures...	164.6	158.4	144.5	+ 3.9	+13.9
Composite price index.....	172.3	168.8	151.8	+ 2.1	+13.5

\* \* \* \* \*

The U.S. Average contract unit prices for the index items during the various periods shown are:

	Unit	Individual Quarters		Three Quarters	
		2nd Qtr. 1985	3rd Qtr. 1985	1st Qtr. 1985*	2nd Qtr. 1985**
Excavation....	Cu.Yd.	\$2.29	\$2.23	\$2.20	\$2.23
PCC surface...	Sq.Yd.	\$14.76	\$14.40	\$14.43	\$14.27
Bit. conc. surf.	Ton	\$27.88	\$28.98	\$28.06	\$28.32
Str. reinf.....	Lb.	\$ 0.444	\$ 0.425	\$ 0.446	\$ 0.448
Str. steel.....	Lb.	\$ 0.824	\$ 0.838	\$ 0.761	\$ 0.807
Str. concrete...	Cu.Yd.	\$246.67	\$255.09	\$236.80	\$245.68

\*Weighted average unit prices for the last quarter of 1984 and first two quarters of 1985.

\*\*Weighted average unit prices for the first three quarters of 1985.

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