• “Mobility is one of our country’s greatest freedoms, but congestion across all of transportation modes continues to limit predictable, reliable movement of people and goods, and poses a serious threat to continued economic growth. Congestion no longer affects only roads in larger urban areas, but is spreading across America”
  – Secretary Mary Peters, October 2006

• “Congestion is not a fact of life. We need a new approach and we need it now.”
  – Former Secretary Norman Mineta, May 2006
Crisis of Congestion: A Tax on the Nation

The financial cost of congestion

- Road congestion annually results in 3.7 billion hours of travel delay and 2.3 billion gallons of wasted fuel. *

- When unreliability, extra inventory, and environmental costs across the entire transportation system and all modes are included, the amount climbs to almost $200 billion annually. **

Crisis of Congestion: Wasted Hours Across America

- Congestion has increased dramatically over the past 20 years in the 85 largest U.S. cities. During this time the number of hours lost each year by an average driver to congestion increased from 17 to almost 50. *

- In the 13 largest cities, drivers now spend the equivalent of almost 8 work days each year stuck in traffic. *

* Texas Transportation Institute, 2005 Urban Mobility Report
** USDOT internal analysis
Since deregulation, U.S. business inventory requirements have fallen precipitously, making the U.S. supply chain the most efficient in the world. Growing congestion will require businesses to carry more inventory, effectively reversing these trends.

Some alarming examples:

Intel has moved their last shipment departure time up two hours for outbound shipments through PDX due to increased pm peak congestion.

Atlanta area distributor of pet food with an 11-truck fleet finds it difficult for one truck to make more than 12 daily deliveries; in 1984, one truck made as many as 20 deliveries each day.

As time spent commuting has grown, Americans have less time to spend with their families and friends.

According to a survey by the Washington Family Council…

- 55% of those surveyed with children at home miss one or more family functions per week due to traffic congestion.
- If they could spend less time in traffic, 85% would spend more time with their family.
### Technology and Operations: Improved Traffic Signal Timing

**Challenge:**
- Nationally operating at D-level

**Actions:**
- Increase awareness/funding
- Establish regular signal retiming programs
- Implement ACS lite