



Wanted: Dangerously Good Solutions for Freight Transportation

Presented by

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Today's Discussion

- Critical problems.
- How to confront them.
- Role for research.

US DOT Multimodal Policy Framework

- Objectives
 - Improve the operations of the existing freight transportation system.
 - Add physical capacity to the freight transportation system in places where investment makes economic sense.
 - Use pricing to better align all costs and benefits between users and owners of the freight system and to encourage deployment of productivity-enhancing technologies.
 - Reduce or remove statutory, regulatory, and institutional barriers to improved freight transportation performance.
 - Proactively identify and address emerging transportation needs.
 - Maximize the safety and security of the freight transportation system.
 - Mitigate and better manage the environmental, health, and community impacts of freight transportation.

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“It is ideas, not vested interests, which are dangerous for good or evil.”

- John Maynard Keynes

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TRB Critical Issues

- **Congestion:** Increasingly congested facilities across all modes.
- **Emergencies:** Vulnerability to terrorist strikes and natural disasters.
- **Energy and Environment:** Extraordinary challenges.
- **Equity:** Burdens on the disadvantaged.
- **Finance:** Inadequate revenues.
- **Human and Intellectual Capital:** Inadequate investment in innovation.
- **Infrastructure:** Enormous, aging capital stock to maintain.
- **Institutions:** 20th century institutions mismatched to 21st century missions.
- **Safety:** Lost leadership in road safety.

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“Congestion creates delay; delay creates waste. Congestion assaults a nation’s wealth by: corroding private-sector productivity; increasing fuel consumption and environmental pollution; creating insatiable demands for public investment.”

Congestion has grown everywhere. In areas of all sizes, congestion occurs during longer portions of the day and delays more travelers and goods than ever before.”

- University of Denver Intermodal Transportation Institutes, September 2004, “Investing in America’s Future: the Need for an Enlightened Transportation Policy.”

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USDOT NATIONAL FREIGHT POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Improve the Operations of the freight transportation system.
- Add physical capacity where it makes the most economic sense to do so.
- Use pricing strategies to better align freight system costs.
- Reduce regulatory and institutional barriers to improve transportation performance.
- Identify and address emergency transportation needs.
- Maximize the safety and security of the system.
- Mitigate and better manage freight transportation's effects on the environment, health and communities.

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Key Community Issues

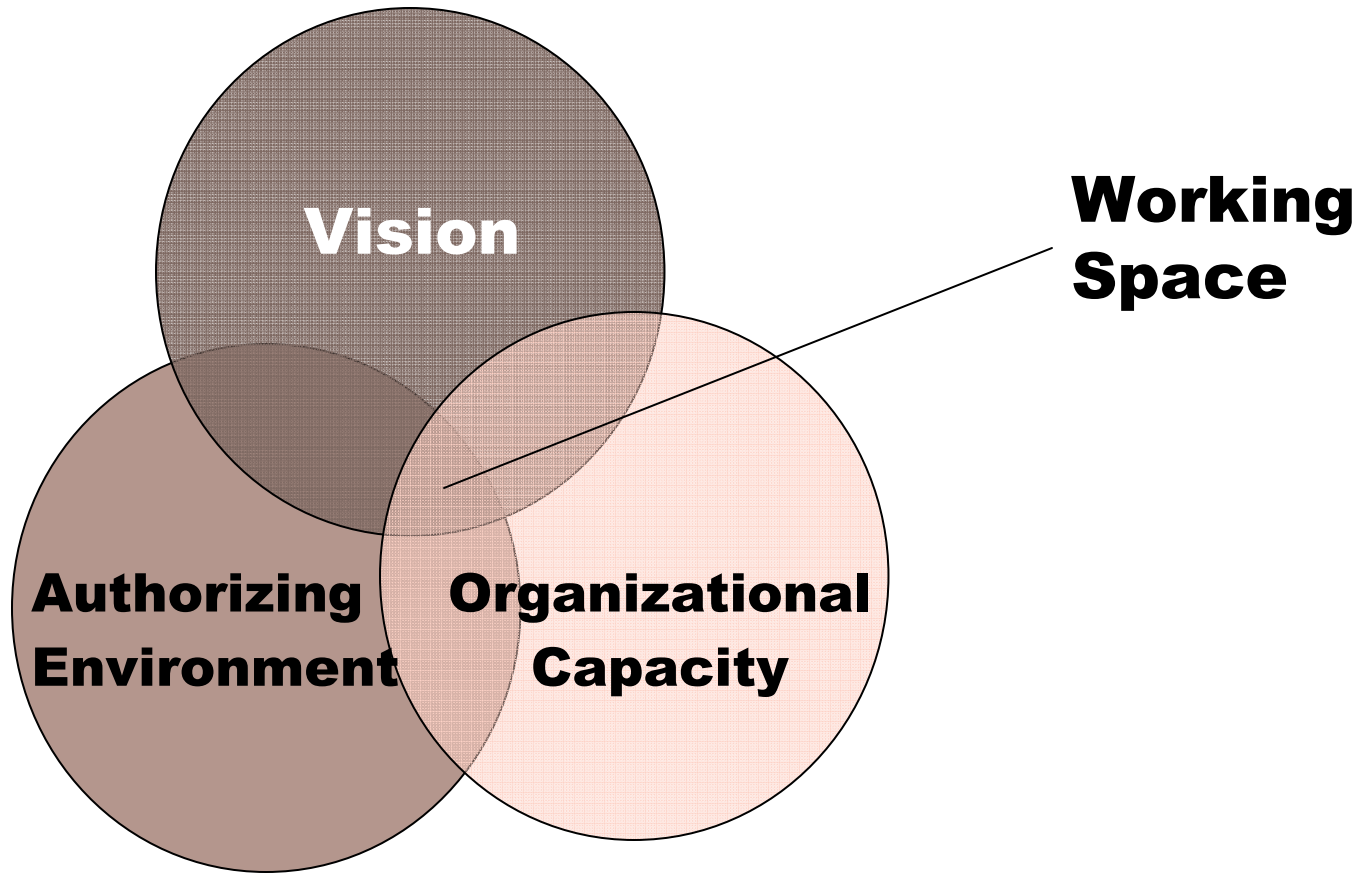
- Communication
- Traffic flow and congestion.
- Safety and security.
- Economic development
- Air quality.
- Noise and vibrations.
- Land use and value.

Freight Transportation System Report Card

Elements	Grade	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transportation Policy		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal, state, regional governance reform		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science and research		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human resource development		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International leadership		

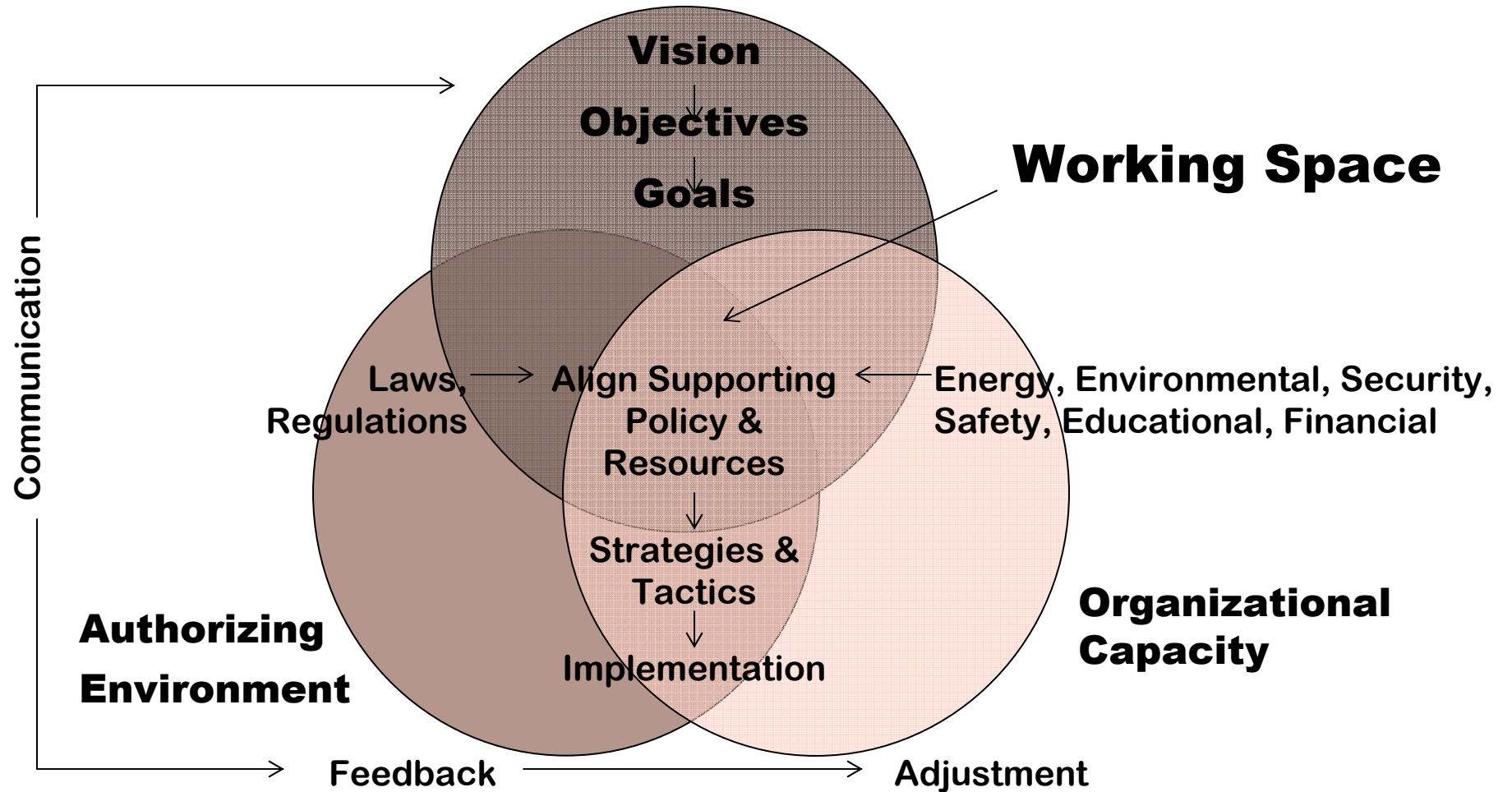
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The Roberts Leadership Model



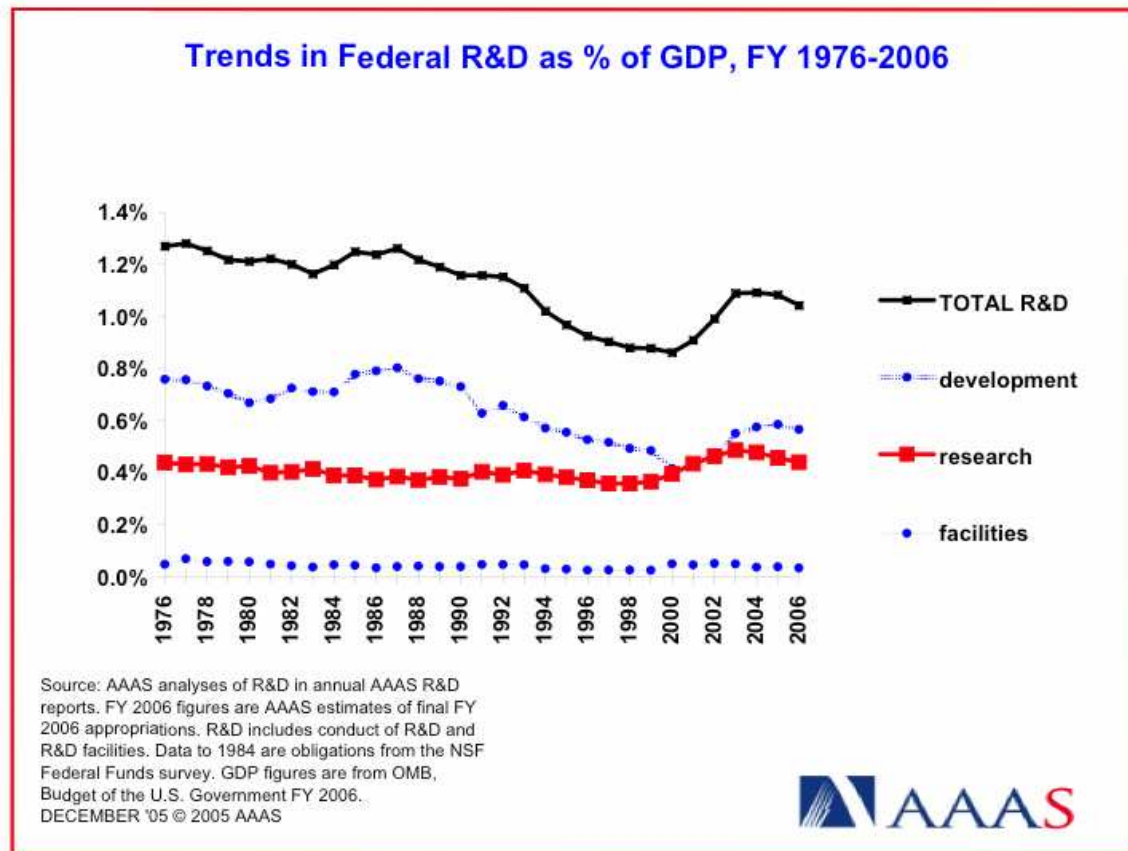
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Adjusted model



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Federal research investments are shrinking as a share of the U.S. economy



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NAE Report: Challenge and Opportunities

- Growing imbalance in federal R&D funding.
- Need for new approaches to industry.
- Service industries offer new interaction opportunities.
- Patenting/licensing results lead to growth in relations, questions still to be resolved.
- Regulatory agencies and processes are fertile ground for interdisciplinary research.

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“The nourishing of the American system requires a sense of responsibility, not only on the part of individual citizens, but especially on the part of America’s leadership. I am not speaking alone of the political leaders, but of all the leaders of all phases of our society as well . . . To the extent that they do not exercise their power and influence in the direction of the common good, they are undermining the very system that has given them that power and influence.”

- Nelson A. Rockefeller

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