

## CLOSING SESSION

### Plenary II: MOVING US FORWARD: the sashto states respond to the challenges of the future

**Moderator: Debbie Hunt**

Florida Department of Transportation

**Panel:**

**Pete Rahn**

American Association of State Highway and  
Transportation Officials  
and Missouri Department of Transportation

**Ben Watts**

former Secretary of the  
Florida Department of Transportation (1989-1997)  
and former President of Carter & Burgess, Inc.

**Responding to the challenges  
of the future**

Where do we go from here? At the closing session of SASHTO 2008, two widely recognized authorities on transportation offered their perspectives on the challenges facing our states and their advice for our leadership.

**National perspective:**

Pete Rahn, president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and director of the Missouri DOT said diminishing revenue sources will require us to explore new funding sources and state DOTs must respond to this new role.

Energy, environment and the economy were the major topics he discussed. New technology is a huge investment but not many are thinking about how we utilize it. Roads are being used for traffic volumes and truck weights they were not designed for.

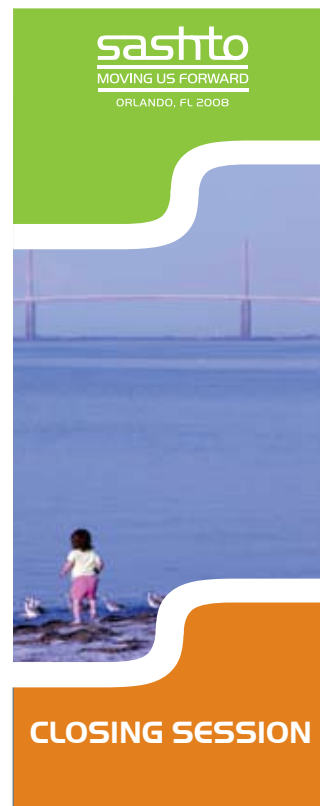
We need the resources and the organized efforts of our industry to move forward.

**State perspective:**

Ben Watts, former Florida DOT Secretary who retired as president of Carter & Burgess, Inc. this year provided insight into what he called "three life lessons learned over 30 years of transportation." "You can't think about something you've never thought of," was the first lesson. He said you need to spend time thinking about how to do things differently and not wait for the federal government to pay for it.

"Don't be content to be, when you can do," was lesson number two. You can't keep people in the same jobs for so long that they become complacent.

"Everything worth doing and worth having should be worth the effort," was the third and last life lesson. You need to learn the balance between what you really want and what it's going to take to get it. There needs to be a balance between the work and the reward.



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