Proposed Administrative Resolution
Title: Continuance of Technical Service Program Financial Support of the AASHTO National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP)

WHEREAS On May 20, 2012, the AASHTO Board of Directors adopted Administrative Resolution AR-1-12, entitled “Continuance of Technical Service Program Financial Support of the AASHTO National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP),” and ordered that it be operated from pooled funds from AASHTO member departments; and

WHEREAS, AASHTO has successfully implemented said technical services program, to assist states with their coordinated evaluation on a wide array of highway safety products, maintenance products and construction materials including establishment of a national auditing program for manufactured products, and

WHEREAS, The program continues to expand as additional product categories are brought forward by the states, and

WHEREAS, There continues to be a decline in state testing resources to adequately evaluate complex or new materials, and

WHEREAS, The NTPEP program has been very successful and could be an excellent template for expanding evaluations for bridge and pavement maintenance, and

WHEREAS, The Subcommittees on Maintenance and Materials are actively pursuing use of NTPEP for development of additional evaluations of products, such as warm mix asphalt additives and elastomeric bridge bearing pads, and

WHEREAS, The following products were added in the last three fiscal years for field and laboratory evaluation: concrete coatings, epoxy and resin based adhesive systems, sediment retention devices, spray applied non-structural pipe liners and

WHEREAS, The following manufacturing processes have been added in the last three fiscal years for standardized manufacturing audits: polypropylene pipe, guardrail/guiderail, elastomeric bridge bearing pads and

WHEREAS, Voluntary state membership dues have not increased since 2012 in accordance with AR-1-12, despite expansion of the program, increased complexity of testing services performed by NTPEP and addition of staffing to cover technical services; and

WHEREAS, The AASHTO Board of Directors and the AASHTO Executive Committee endorsed and authorized continuation of the joint funding concept where participating AASHTO member departments and industry shared costs with revenue from industry testing fees being utilized primarily for product testing, reporting and distribution of reports, and with revenue from AASHTO member departments collected through voluntary pooled fund contributions primarily utilized for engineering, administrative and consultant support to run the program; and

WHEREAS, The NTPEP technical service program was evaluated this fiscal year, 2015 for its effectiveness and legitimacy among transportation users, and the funding mechanisms to support the program if it is to be continued, and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the AASHTO Board of Directors support an increase in the voluntary member department contribution to $17,000, as recommended by the Standing Committee on Highways.