STANDING COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HIGHWAY QUALITY
Proposed Administrative Resolution AR-__-06
Title: Reimburse Travel Expenses Incurred by Members of the NPHQ Lead State Team

WHEREAS, At the AASHTO Spring, 2000 meeting, the Standing Committee on Highways proposed an Administrative Resolution which was passed by the Board of Directors on April 9, 2000 as Administrative Resolution AR-1-00; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Resolution AR-1-00 provided in part for AASHTO to contribute $135,000 per year for the National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ), of which $15,000 was designated for reimbursing travel expenses incurred by the six (6) members from State Highway Agencies in participating in three (3) annual meetings; and

WHEREAS, Through use of teleconferences to conduct Steering Committee business, NPHQ has reduced its number of annual meetings from three (3) to two (2) for the last four (4) years, resulting in the accumulation of unused travel funds; and

WHEREAS, NPHQ is promoting the formation of new State Quality Partnerships (SQP) and strengthening existing ones to increase State Highway Agency/industry partnerships in improving the quality of delivered highways at the local level; and

WHEREAS, NPHQ is planning to use the Lead State Team concept to offer on-site assistance from experienced lead state team members to States that want to receive advice related to forming a new SQP or strengthening an existing one; and

WHEREAS, NPHQ is unable to fund the travel costs that will result from sending Lead State Team members to States that request assistance in establishing or strengthening their SQP;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Standing Committee on Highways recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the Technical Service Program established to support the NPHQ Program to use the unexpended travel funds to reimburse travel expenses incurred by members of the NPHQ Lead State Team when providing assistance to States in forming an SQP or strengthening an existing one.
BACKGROUND FOR PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION - NPHQ

(Approved by the Board of Directors April 9, 2000)

Administrative Resolution AR-1-00
Title: National Partnership for Highway Quality

WHEREAS, The National Quality Initiative (NQI) was formed and formally chartered by the signing of the National Policy on the Quality of Highways on November 10, 1992, in Dallas, Texas by AASHTO, FHWA, and six (6) industry organizations; and

WHEREAS, The NQI was conceived and formed for the expressed purpose of introducing and sustaining strong emphasis on improving the quality of highways in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The NQI continues to date, has grown to 13 member organizations, and is currently the only active, Nationally-focused body in the United States that includes the ten (10) major highway industry organizations as full partners in advocating better quality highway products and services in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Through its influence, the NQI has had a major positive impact on improving the quality of United States highways and their operation; and

WHEREAS, The FHWA has funded the NQI program in its entirety since its beginning in November, 1992, including travel expenses for AASHTO’s State Highway Agency members; and

WHEREAS, TEA-21, through designating the expenditure of the greater portion of FHWA’s allocated budget, has reduced the funding that the FHWA can provide to the NQI program; and

WHEREAS, The NQI has taken action to recreate itself and to enhance its operations, to adopt the new name of National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ), to adopt a new strategic plan, to generate its own funding through contributions from member organizations and other willing contributors, to retain the same member organizations but to stipulate a reduced number of official Steering Committee members that may come from each member organization, and to adopt an annual operating budget of $360,000; and

WHEREAS, The plan approved by the NPHQ for funding the annual budget provides for AASHTO to provide one-third of the annual operating budget that remains unfunded from donations or other sources, for FHWA to provide one-third of the annual operating budget that remains unfunded from donations or other sources, and for the combination of the ten (10) industry organizations and APWA to provide the remaining one-third of the unfunded annual operating budget; and

WHEREAS, AASHTO currently provides leadership to NQI through furnishing one of the Co-Chairmen and eleven other members to the Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, AASHTO’s newly allocated seven (7) official members on the NPHQ Steering Committee will consist of one Chief Engineer to serve as one of the Co-Chairmen, one Chief Engineer from each of the four (4) AASHTO regions, one person from the Administrative Subcommittee on Public Affairs, and one Staff Person from AASHTO Headquarters; and

WHEREAS, For voting by the NPHQ Steering Committee on issues not reaching consensus and which will require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by a quorum of official NPHQ members present, AASHTO will have seven (7) votes including the AASHTO Co-Chairman who would vote only in the case of a tie vote, FHWA will have five (5) votes, APWA would have one (1) vote, and the ten (10) industry member organizations would have eleven (11) votes including the industry Co-Chairman who would vote only in the case of a tie vote; and

WHEREAS, AASHTO is the leading highway advocate in this country and it is considered to be imperative that
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the AASHTO Board of Directors recommends approval of AASHTO’s being a full partner in the National Partnership for Highway Quality by providing one of the Co-Chairmen and the allocated number of members to the Steering Committee and by providing its one-third share of NPHQ’s operating budget that remains unfunded from donations and other sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the AASHTO Board of Directors recommends approval of AASHTO’s contributing an additional $15,000 in funding to provide for the reimbursement of the travel costs for the six (6) members from State Highway Agencies, who are designated to serve on the NPHQ Steering Committee, to participate in three (3) annual meetings of the NPHQ Steering Committee, including the Annual Conference, which is joined to the fall Steering Committee meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the AASHTO Board of Directors recommends that a Technical Service Program with funding of approximately $135,000 annually be established to support the NPHQ program and recommends that the Technical Service Program for NPHQ be funded by member department voluntary contributions of $4,000 each to support AASHTO’s full partnership in the NPHQ program.