I want to thank all of you here today for continuing to focus on ways to improve transportation and mobility. Your work has already made a difference and will continue to do so as we move forward.

Michigan’s complex transportation landscape is evolving to meet new lifestyle, business, and safety demands. From major highways and intercity rail, to urban transit and pedestrian spaces, to marine ports, airports, and recreational trails, Michigan’s transportation infrastructure continues to become more integrated and accessible.

With the help of technology, that trend will only continue. We are on the cusp of major improvements to the ease and safety with which people travel and the efficiency with which we move goods across the state and around the globe. As the technology takes off, it’s hard to imagine how far it can take us. There has never been a better time to invest in Michigan’s infrastructure.

Local governments and business leaders are reimagining their communities, taking advantage of the connection between transportation and technology to create new jobs with business incubators and commercial clusters. With a world class city served by state-of-the-art transportation like Detroit’s new M-1 rail and advanced ITS technologies, Michigan will continue to sharpen its economic edge. Throughout the state, a growing network of hiking and biking trails support tourism and provide exciting and scenic opportunities for visitors. And complete streets initiatives are helping integrate transportation systems to provide safe and enjoyable access for all travelers, to take advantage of all that Michigan communities have to offer.

Transportation developments like these help to build a more livable, attractive, safer and more sustainable Michigan. For families, entrepreneurs, corporations, or young graduates, the growing efficiency and interconnection of the state’s transportation systems is making Michigan an even better place to live, work and do business. Moving forward, your new ideas for Michigan’s transportation systems will ensure the state’s competitive advantage for global business while making the everyday details of home and work life that much better for everyone.