

May 25, 2012

AASHTO Top Leaders Announce Retirements

John Horsley and Jack Basso, long-time leaders of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, notified the AASHTO Board of Directors that they intend to retire effective Feb. 1, 2013.

The announcement was made Sunday afternoon, May 20, during the AASHTO Spring Meeting in Traverse City, Mich.

Horsley, who has served as AASHTO executive director since 1999, previously worked at the U.S. Department of Transportation as an associate deputy secretary advocating for intermodal policies and quality of life initiatives. He also served as a liaison to state and local governments.

Horsley moved to Washington, D.C. in 1994 after serving as a five-term county commissioner in Kitsap County, Wash. He is a graduate of Harvard, an Army veteran, and a former Peace Corps volunteer and congressional aide. Horsley also is a past president of the National Association of Counties and was a founding chairman of the Rebuild America Coalition.

Basso joined AASHTO in 2001 after a 36-year career in federal government, assuming the role of chief operating officer and business development director. Prior to joining AASHTO, Basso served as the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs and as Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Department of Transportation. In that capacity, he oversaw the development of a \$60 billion budget and interacted with senior officials, members of Congress, their staff, and key industry officials on a wide variety of transportation matters.

AASHTO President and Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle told the Board of Directors that the association's executive committee would begin a search for candidates to replace Horsley and Basso, although he did not specify a timeline for the process.

"I am committed to you as your president that we will keep the Executive Committee up to speed with what is happening and the same thing to the Board of Directors," Steudle said. "In the end, we want to make sure we have a very solid executive director going forward that will carry our organization into the next century."

Questions regarding this article may be directed to editor@ashtojournal.org.