

.....FHWA Message



The International Conference on Ecology and Transportation, ICOET. It only gets better! As the primary agency sponsor, we at the Federal Highway Administration are simply delighted with the continued success of this wonderful biennial gathering. The 2003 program was certainly no exception. We had what I consider the best ever mix of informative technical sessions, great exhibits and posters, and spirited conversation inside and beyond the meeting rooms. The positive interaction I witnessed this year between scientist and practitioner and activist and agency official was extraordinary. ICOET is helping us all to bridge the gaps in understanding the effects of transportation systems on the ecosystems through which they pass.

I was again greatly encouraged by the continuing trend of speakers and attendees from other countries. But we should work even harder to encourage more foreign representatives to attend future ICOETs. We have much to learn and appreciate from their work. So let us continue to give true meaning to the word, International, in our title.

Although it has been said many times, I cannot close without giving special thanks to our host for the 2003 conference, the New York State DOT. Under the able leadership of Debra Nelson, the contribution to the conference by NYSDOT personnel was just tremendous. We could not have done it without their outstanding partnership.

Thank you!

Fred G. Bank
Ecologist/Team Leader
Office of Natural and Human Environment
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC