

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends and supporters,

This brief report on High Road Strategy Center activities last year contains a lot of positive news. Our State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI) completed and released its long-anticipated new edition of *Innovative DOT*. In a user-friendly way, this gives leadership and staff in state transportation departments (that's the "DOT" in the name) all over the country the best guidance on the power they have: moving transportation projects, running transportation systems, and developing their own people to do both. Through SSTI's peer networks, its state partners scored important success, be it Washington's "shared street" safer and more people-centered street design, California's conversion of the waste of increased driving into the good of more affordable housing, or Connecticut improving its DOT's performance by finding ways to speed project delivery while staying accountable to the public. Our Mayors Innovation Project (MIP), regularly convening and working with hundreds of high-roading mayors and their staffs from around the country, can report innumerable breakthroughs on cleaner energy, safer streets, and more affordable housing and mobility in their communities. It also continued to promote the work of women mayors, now everywhere but rare when MIP started 20 years ago. Other High Road Strategy Center projects, like ProGov21 (Progressive Local Government for the 21st Century) and GPAL (Government Performance Action Lab)—whose names suggest their content—also registered major gains.

This news may surprise, given national politics in 2025. That year was dark and dangerous, unprecedented in our nearly 250-year history. Still and always, at the High Road Strategy Center, we have remained focused on pursuing progressive policy opportunities in cities and states, whatever is happening in Washington.

Courage!



**Joel Rogers**

Director, High Road Strategy

