



Rodney E. Slater
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Practice Areas

Transportation and Infrastructure
Public Policy and Lobbying
Homeland Security, Defense, and
Technology Transfer

Education

University of Arkansas, J.D., 1980
Eastern Michigan University, B.S., 1977

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Rodney E. Slater

Experience

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater helps clients integrate their interests in the overall vision for the transportation system of the 21st Century—a vision he set as transportation secretary to promote a safer, more efficient, environmentally sound and sustainable worldwide transportation infrastructure. Mr. Slater also helps state and local government clients address the vexing challenge of closing the gap between transportation demand and capacity by employing public/private strategies and innovative financing solutions. Mr. Slater's practice focuses on many of the policy and transportation objectives that were set under his leadership, including aviation competition and congestion mitigation, maritime initiatives, high-speed rail corridor development, and overall transportation safety and funding. He continues to embrace the framework he established as secretary for making transportation decisions that called for more open, collaborative and flexible decision making across the transportation enterprise here and abroad.

Mr. Slater's bipartisan and inclusive approach to problem solving has earned him tremendous respect and admiration on both sides of the aisle, enabling him to have one of the best relationships with the White House, Congress, and business, labor and political leaders worldwide in the history of the Department of Transportation (DOT). His work at DOT forever altered America's and the world's appreciation of transportation as more than just concrete, asphalt and steel. Mr. Slater brings the same strategic, results-oriented and collaborative approach to the practice of law to his public policy practice.

As secretary of transportation under President Bill Clinton, Mr. Slater passed several historic legislative initiatives over his tenure, including the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which guaranteed a record \$200 billion in surface transportation investment through 2003, and the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR-21), which provides a record \$46 billion to improve the safety and security of the nation's aviation system. Under his leadership, the federal transportation budget doubled and in the department's "best in government" strategic and performance plans, the scope and definition of transportation was expanded to include a focus on safety, mobility and access, economic development and trade, the environment and national security.

Previous to his tenure as transportation secretary, Mr. Slater served as director of the Federal Highway Administration, where—as the agency's first African-American Administrator in its century-long history—he oversaw the development of an innovative financing program that resulted in hundreds of transportation projects being completed two to three years ahead of schedule with greater cost efficiencies. Over that time, the federal transportation budget

Professional Profile

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increased an unprecedented 104 percent. Additionally, the department's FY2001 budget of nearly \$60 billion is the largest ever.

Professional Affiliations

- Former Secretary of Transportation
- Former Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration
- Former Director of Government Relations, Arkansas State University
- Former Special Assistant for Economic and Community Programs to then-Governor Bill Clinton
- Former Executive Assistant for Community and Minority Affairs to then-Governor Bill Clinton
- Former Assistant Attorney General, Litigation Division of the Arkansas State Attorney General's Office
- Former Secretary-Treasurer, Arkansas Bar Association
- Special Liaison, Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission
- Arkansas State Highway Commission, (1987-1992)
- Vice Chairman and Senior Advisor, James Lee Witt Associates

Publications, Speeches, Presentations

- Mr. Slater has contributed to numerous publications, including two major DOT reports on transportation challenges and accomplishments that were issued under Mr. Slater's leadership: *The Changing Face of Transportation* and *Transportation Decision Making: A Policy Architecture for the 21st Century*.