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Nominee Information:

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Nominee’s area of expertise: Economics (Transportation Policy)

References:

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Statement of Nomination:

An engineer turned policy wonk, Bob Poole launched the Reason Foundation in 1978 and went on to conduct pioneering research on privatization of government services. His work laid the basis for America’s first long-term highway tolling concession legislation and to the development of California’s pilot program for private toll roads. Supplementing research with hands-on consultation, Poole paved the way for the development of privately-built and maintained “HOT” lanes, with projects now moving forward in a dozen urban areas around the country. As such, he has the distinction of being one of the rare policy wonks whose recommendations are being implemented on a wide scale. We call the HOT lanes that run a mile from my house, freeing Washingtonian commuters of highway congestion, “Poole Lanes” – as mercifully distinct from carpool lanes. Poole can also take credit for experiments in airport privatization and for implementation of the Trusted Traveler concept in airport security. Every time we speed through the pre-check lane at an airport or travel 65 mph on an uncongested toll road, we experience the benefits of Bob Poole’s contributions to U.S. transportation policy. Bob is not a lofty policy wonk who writes from the comfort of a cushy office. He attends mind-numbing meetings of transportation officials, consults one-on-one with state, local, and federal decision-makers, and produces how-to guides on privatizing government services. It’s that willingness to subject himself to the minutia of policymaking that makes him such a successful policy entrepreneur and a deserving candidate for the Bradley Prize.