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# Opening Remarks by Chairman Shukuri (Video Message)

*for the APTA-JITI Joint Session in Toronto Canada on June 25th, 2019*

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I apologize for giving my remarks via video message due to a schedule conflict.

I would like to genuinely extend my appreciation to President and Chief Executive Officer Paul Skoutelas and the personnel of APTA for the realization of today's joint session, the first project embodying our collaboration which we agreed to strengthen during my visit to the APTA headquarters in Washington D.C. last October. In addition, I would like to express thanks for the attendance of Ms. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, and Ms. Takako Ito, Consul-General of Japan in Toronto. I am also delighted to have all of the distinguished speakers, moderator, and guests participating in our session.

In 1991, JITI was established by the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute, and since then has been holding seminars, where they invite specialists from the US and Japan, thus contributing to the information exchange and mutual understanding between the transport and tourism communities of both countries.

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In Japan, where urban railways have been highly advanced in large cities, railway companies, with the real estate business sector, obtain revenue from value capture through transit-oriented development, and improve the convenience of railways. Also, they expand railway passenger numbers, and contribute to vigorous urban development. I believe some experiences of railway construction and transit-oriented development in Japan may indeed be applicable for future railway construction and transit-oriented development in North America.

Finally, as a host with our co-sponsor APTA, I hope that today's session will contribute toward the development of future urban railways and the promotion of railroad ridership in North America. Thank you very much.