Robert E. Hemenway is serving as Chancellor of the Lexington campus of the University of Kentucky. He came to UK from the University of Oklahoma, where he served as Dean of Arts and Sciences since 1986. Prior to that, he was at UK as Chairman of the Department of English and professor of English.

Dr. Hemenway earned degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Ph.D. at Kentucky State University.

OPENING SESSION
Thursday, November 1, 1990

Robert E. Hemenway
Chancellor
University of Kentucky

WELCOME AND REMARKS

On behalf of the President, the faculty, the administration, the students, and the staff, I want to welcome you to the University of Kentucky. We are delighted to have you. It is my understanding this is your 27th Forum on Transportation. We realize that parking on campus is a problem, and hope the logistics have been worked out so you did not have to walk too far.

We believe campus is the best location for a forum of this type. It provides an opportunity for interaction between transportation practicing professionals, industry, faculty, and students. The theme for this year's forum, Transportation--Kentucky's Key to Economic Growth, is a most timely subject. I have found it is difficult to overstate the importance of transportation; certainly to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, if not to the nation and to the world economy. One of the principal ways in which state and local governments seek to increase economic growth is in transportation infrastructure improvements. The reason is better access to materials and markets, which contribute to competitive advantages.

With considerable political interest in major highway improvements and to help foster local economic development, the question needs to be addressed, Will these investments actually lead to economic growth and development? Your forum will provide an opportunity to examine this question.

I note from the program, Mr. Charles Miller, assistant administrator for research, development, and technology for the Federal Highway
Administration is our keynote speaker this morning. Mr. Miller, Calvin tells me you are responsible for the administration of the research and development funds for the Federal Highway Administration. I believe you were sworn in as associate administrator just last week and this trip to our forum is one of your first official visits. We want to give you a very special and warm welcome to our forum and express our appreciation to you for your participation.

I also note from the program that Jerry Lentz, deputy secretary for the Transportation Cabinet, will be discussing the Intelligent Vehicle Highway System project known as Advantage I-75. I understand it has received national visibility and recognition. Kentucky is the lead state in this concept, working with the University’s Transportation Center. Leon Larson, regional federal highway administrator, and Paul Toussaint, Kentucky’s Federal Highway Administration division administrator, were responsible for the motivation and initiation of this most important project. The federal and state governments, Transportation Center, and private motor carrier industry, working together, can make this a most successful project. I want to compliment those involved, not only with the Advantage I-75 project, but other meaningful research and development projects underway in our Transportation Center.

The partnership between the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and our Transportation Center is unique. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s scholarship program, which provides 51 scholarships, is the only program of its kind in the nation. We are indeed fortunate and grateful for this working relationship with state government and also for your help in sponsoring this forum.

The Chancellor’s Office is always ready to be of assistance. Again, welcome and have a most successful forum.