

Testimony of
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On Behalf of
the International City/County Management Association

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Our transportation network is the nation's means to a greater end, including commerce and trade, including travel and hospitality, and public safety. Our transportation network must guarantee economic expansion and national security.

Over the past twenty plus years Americans have witnessed two major threats to these guarantees: increasing congestion and an aging system. Our nation has been unwilling to address these problems with sufficient resources. A comprehensive national transportation policy must adequately fund identifiable needs. (A comprehensive national transportation policy must include sufficient federal, state and local resources. Going forward, many local leaders are concerned about the lack of adequate federal and state commitments.)

Future trends - including renewed interest in energy conservation policies and promoting denser, more walk-able, and transit-oriented communities – suggest that the next generation of leaders must carefully align national goals with required funding. “Smart

growth” requires informed local land use decisions. Local leaders throughout the country are aware of these trends and, on whole, striving to build livable and sustainable communities. Separate from the issue of congestion: our national leaders also must recognize that rural communities often require new transportation investments to stimulate economic development. Supportive state and federal policies and infrastructure decisions are needed to assist these efforts at the local level.

In the final analysis our transportation challenges will be addressed when Americans commit to cultivating the financial resources necessary to i) resolve our current problems, ii) address inevitable future demands and iii) manage those demands by providing a greater variety of transportation choices.