



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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August 31, 2011

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The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Mica, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Camp, Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Johnson, Chairman
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As representatives of the nation's mayors, we are writing to urge you to provide for a timely extension of the nation's surface transportation law (SAFETEA-LU) by September 30, along with an extension of existing federal transportation user fees that support critical investments in our transportation systems. The clock is ticking. If such an extension is not signed by the President before September 30, the entire program will be suspended – as was the case recently with the FAA bill - threatening the loss of 1.8 million jobs and doing irreparable harm to our already crumbling infrastructure.

For generations both parties have recognized the need to construct and improve a national transportation network, and we built a world-class system that has moved goods and people efficiently for decades. Today, there is growing anxiety that for the first time in decades Congress could fail to continue to fund our national transportation system. This comes at a time when countries like China, India and Brazil are investing heavily to become more competitive in the global marketplace. We cannot afford to undermine our competitiveness over the long-term, while immediately eliminating hundreds of thousands of private sector jobs during this challenging economic time.

The Honorable James Inhofe, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sander Levin, Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Ranking
Member
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and
Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Key decisions about the scale of future funding commitments and the substance of specific policy reforms should be addressed in the successor legislation to SAFETEA-LU, not in an extension bill or as part of a continuing appropriation.

We strongly urge Congress to send a clean extension of our nation's surface transportation program to the President for his immediate signature.

Sincerely,

Antonio R. Villaraigosa
Mayor of Los Angeles
President

Michael A. Nutter
Mayor of Philadelphia
Vice President

Scott Smith
Mayor of Mesa
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