



# 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  
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