



## Transportation Investment Drives Economic Recovery

### Multi-year Highway/Transit Bill

- Since Congress has failed to pass legislation to reauthorize the highway and transit programs before SAFETEA-LU expired on September 30, 2009, these programs have been operating under short term extensions. The latest extension expires on *March 31, 2012*. The lack of certainty that comes with not having a multi-year program forces states to be very conservative in their project planning and design which significantly delays construction. Major transportation projects require at least one year of planning and design before they can be put out for bid and may take more than a year to construct. Without a multiyear authorization, it is impossible to know how much funding will be available for construction so it is impossible to plan, impossible to design and that makes it impossible to construct major capital projects. As a result, the impacts of transportation investments are seriously diluted by a congressionally abbreviated reauthorization program. States have billions of dollars worth of major projects held up waiting for a multiyear authorization.
- The largest impediment to passing a fully-funded multi-year authorization bill is paying for all of the needed transportation investments. There is no single answer to solve our current funding problem. All options must be on the table. The consequences of inaction are clear. The United States can either invest in our transportation infrastructure now or pay more later.
- An efficient surface transportation network is essential for:
  - Delivering U.S. goods to domestic and international markets;
  - Providing U.S. business with access to workers;
  - Preventing traffic congestion from draining \$87 billion from the economy each year; and
  - Keeping the U.S. economy globally competitive.
- Without these core functions, U.S. productivity and economic strength will continue to be compromised. At the same time, the U.S. construction industry today is faced with its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression:
  - Nearly two million construction jobs have been lost since 2007;
  - Construction industry unemployment now stands at 13 percent; and
  - Millions of American families are suffering as residential and commercial construction activity has plummeted and state and local spending on highways, roads and bridges declined.

### Time to Act is Now!

- It's time to improve our aging roads and bridges, unclog our congested shipping routes, expand our crowded transit systems and get our stalled economy moving again.
- Please help restore the U.S. economy by acting on a robust long term surface transportation authorization bill in 2012.

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