

**The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
The American Road and Transportation Builders Association
The Associated General Contractors of America
The U.S. Chamber of Commerce
The Laborers International Union**

February 4, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
The Honorable Richard Durbin
Majority Whip
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairman,
The Environment and Public Works Committee
The Honorable Max Baucus Chairman, Finance Committee
The Honorable James Inhofe Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works
Committee

Dear Senators:

We are writing on behalf of the undersigned organizations to express our strong support for prompt Senate passage of an extension of the highway and transit programs in the SAFETEA-LU legislation and inclusion of a transfer of General Funds into the Highway Trust Fund in an amount sufficient to support the appropriated FY10 funding levels consistent with at least a nine month period and should the Senate decide a one year extension period.

Passage of legislation that includes an extension and the funds transfer will provide much needed certainty and stability within the states, local transportation authorities and transit agencies to make long-term capital commitments and plan for a full season of work. All 50 states continue their highway construction season through September and into October, at least 45 states continue highway work into November and one-third of the states are still working in December. Without an extension that also stabilizes the Highway Trust Fund, the transportation construction industry will continue to decline and much needed transportation investments cannot be made.

We continue to support Congressional efforts to enact a well-funded, long-term surface transportation bill. That work can go on in Congress while the program continues to fund needed transportation assets. Swift passage of a multiyear bill will have an impact in the out years but shoring up the trust fund now will allow the maximum job creation during the 2010 construction season. We face a shortfall in the trust fund at this time that makes an extension and funds transfer essential to creating much needed jobs in the construction industry this year and to continuing to improve this nation's transportation infrastructure. The nation needs these investments **now** and we urge the Senate to act to move this critical legislation.

It is critically important given the urgency of the investment and jobs issues that these provisions be included in the Senate jobs bill to be introduced next week.

Sincerely,

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