



**TRANSPORTATION  
CONSTRUCTION  
COALITION**

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## Transportation Investment Drives Economic Recovery

### Multi-year Highway/Transit Bill Status

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 December 31, 2010. In addition, spending out of the Highway Trust Fund has exceeded revenue since 2004. As a result, the Highway Trust Fund has insufficient revenue to maintain current funding levels. As part of the HIRE Act, Congress transferred general fund revenue to the Highway Trust Fund to keep the highway and transit programs operational. However, this additional revenue will only carry the program until mid 2011.

A House draft bill has been reported from the Highways and Transit subcommittee but no further action has been taken. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is drafting legislation but it will not be available for consideration until late August or early September.

### Consequences of Inaction

Without a multi-year program, states cannot fund and fix pressing transportation needs at a time when our global competitors are investing trillions modernizing their infrastructure. As a result, the concerted efforts of the Obama Administration and Members of Congress to advance policies intended to help boost the U.S. economy are seriously diluted.

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 22 percent (more than twice the national average); 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 surface transportation authorization bill in 2010.**