



Partner to Rebuild the Nation's Infrastructure

Local governments own 75 percent of the nearly four million-mile national roadway network and about half of the nation's bridges, manage 90 percent of the transit systems, provide 30 percent of the funding for the nation's roads, highways, and transit, and play a key role in ensuring that transportation investments match transportation goals for their communities. As state and local governments invest the transportation funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to best serve our national transportation goals, the 111th Congress will take on future transportation challenges, including the future of transportation finance, the link between energy consumption and transportation, and the need for a strong intergovernmental partnership to set national transportation goals and priorities.

Message to Congress

- *Transportation drives local economies, which drive the nation.* Local leaders must be part of the decision-making process on transportation investments that best serve local needs and meet local goals, including decisions about highways versus transit.
- *The Highway Trust Fund, financed by federal gasoline taxes and redistributed through the states to cities and towns, is not keeping up with demand; estimates indicate that it will fall \$8 billion short by the end of the 2009 fiscal year.*
- *Without action, the nation's transportation system assets will further deteriorate.* Our current system is aging and requires increasing investment just to maintain its current condition, much less improve it.
- *Federal transportation policy must be coordinated with our country's energy and environmental policies* to decrease reliance on foreign oil, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and other adverse public health impacts.

Request to Congress

- **Provide** full funding for federal transportation programs that support bridges, roads, highways, transit and Amtrak, and **support** funding that goes directly to local governments, such as funding for transit, transportation enhancements, and the Congestion Management Air Quality Program that helps reduce congestion and protect the environment.
- **Partner** with local governments to meet America's pressing infrastructure needs and to ensure we have the transportation systems that will allow us to achieve our goals for our hometowns and our nation; and
- **Recognize** the central role of transportation to metropolitan economies by taking a holistic approach to transportation decisions, such as including the local voice in planning and project selection and choosing the best mix of transportation options to fit the needs of the region.