

September 20, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

The Americans for Transportation Mobility (ATM) coalition strongly urges that you maintain current funding levels for federal highway and public transportation programs in the FY 2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Maintaining, modernizing and expanding America's transportation system is important to U.S. productivity and economic competitiveness in the long run, while investment in transportation infrastructure supports jobs in the near term. These federal programs can ill afford cuts from current service levels, particularly given the current state of U.S. highways, bridges, and public transportation networks around the country, especially at a time of continuing economic stagnation in the construction sector.

To prevent further uncertainty in the construction sector due to the continued delay of major longer-term infrastructure bills, it is critical that this appropriations bill closely reflect the funding levels already established in complimentary authorizations of the highway and transit program into FY 2012. There are adequate resources in the Highway Trust Fund to support current funding levels through FY2012.

The ATM coalition acknowledges the challenges of the current fiscal environment and does not consider current federal highway and public transportation programs above the need for rigorous examination and reform. In fact, as a core federal responsibility, we believe that the time for a thoughtful debate over the direction of the programs is long overdue. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to maintain current funding levels for the federal highway and public transportation programs and work with your colleagues in Congress to advance and pass a sufficiently funded multi-year reauthorization of the federal highway and public transportation programs as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Americans for Transportation Mobility Coalition

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

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*ATM Management Committee Members*

American Public Transportation Association • American Road and Transportation Builders Association • Associated Equipment Distributors • Association of Equipment Manufacturers • Associated General Contractors • American Society of Civil Engineers • International Union of Operating Engineers • Laborers International Union of North America • National Asphalt Pavement Association • National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association • United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America • U.S. Chamber of Commerce