

News Release

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Civil Engineers Believe Three-Month Extension Must Be The Last

Washington, D.C. – The following is a statement by Thomas W. Smith, III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE, executive director of the American Society of Civil Engineers on Congress' passage of the three-month extension of the federal surface transportation program:

"The American Society of Civil Engineers is grateful for the leadership Senators McConnell, Inhofe, Boxer, and others exhibited the past two months to make passing a multi-year, robust surface transportation bill a priority. While it is most disappointing that Congress did not pass a multi-year bill yet, the Senate leaders work has moved us closer to a bill signing. This determination must continue during the next three months, so that by October's end President Obama will have signed into law a multi-year, well-funded surface transportation bill.

"A year ago the House of Representatives assured the American people that a 10-month extension would be sufficient time to pass a multi-year bill. This May they requested an extra two months to get the job done. The Senate used those two months wisely and did the heavy lifting on bipartisan legislation that would finally offer some stability for states and more funding to improve our nation's infrastructure. But, the House unfortunately opted for the latest status-quo: another short-term extension that leaves states unable to plan past October.

"The country needs and deserves a multi-year bill supported by reliable, sustainable, long-term funding, not more short-term extensions supported by complex pay-fors. ASCE urges consideration of all viable funding options, including raising the federal gas tax. The user-based fee is simple, fair and already in place.

"In the next three months, ASCE urges the House and Senate to work through their policy differences and continue the legacy of the Highway Trust Fund. This short-term extension needs to be the last and we believe it can be, so long as Congress moves the nation forward by working together in a bipartisan way to finish their work on improving America's surface transportation infrastructure."