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Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute ■  
The Road Information Program ■  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

For More Information:  
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July 14, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Environment & Public Works Committee  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

The 28 national associations and construction trade unions of the Transportation Construction Coalition strongly support timely enactment of a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill. Accordingly, we have serious concerns about the proposal from the Obama Administration to delay action on this critical legislation until March of 2011.

The nation's highway and transit network is facing a myriad of dire challenges. According to the Texas Transportation Institute's 2009 Urban Mobility Report, traffic congestion in major metropolitan areas imposes \$87 billion each year in lost productivity and wasted fuel costs. A recent report by the Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation found deficient roadways contribute to more than 22,000 fatalities and cost the nation more than \$217 billion annually. The nation's outdated surface transportation network also creates major impediments to the global competitiveness of the U.S. economy and U.S. companies in the international market place. These challenges will not solve themselves and will only get worse over the next 18 months.

The transportation investments of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act are delivering an economic boost to the transportation construction industry and the entire nation. The recession's impacts, however, are placing most states in severe budget challenges and many of these states are cutting back transportation investment as a result. As such, in many areas the recovery act is serving to keep state activities current. A multi-year reauthorization bill with robust highway and public transportation investment, would provide lasting economic benefits and contribute to new job creation.

Given these difficult times and the nation's overwhelming transportation infrastructure needs, enactment of a multi-year reauthorization bill is more important now than ever. As such, the TCC believes action on this important legislation should not be postponed for 18 months and urges you to support the Voinovich alternative or any other effort that would keep Congress focused on a long-term bill.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition