



**TRANSPORTATION
CONSTRUCTION
COALITION**

**We're Building A
Better America!**

American Road & Transportation Builders Association (co-chair) ■ Associated General Contractors of America (co-chair) ■ American Coal Ash Association ■ American Concrete Pavement Association ■ American Concrete Pipe Association ■ American Council of Engineering Companies ■ American Society of Civil Engineers ■ American Subcontractors Association ■ American Traffic Safety Services Association ■ Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association ■ Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association ■ Associated Equipment Distributors ■ Association of Equipment Manufacturers ■ International Slurry Surfacing Association ■ International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers ■ International Union of Operating Engineers ■ Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust ■ Laborers' International Union of North America ■ National Asphalt Pavement Association ■ National Association of Surety Bond Producers ■ National Lime Association ■ National Ready Mixed Concrete Association ■ National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association ■ National Utility Contractors Association ■ Portland Cement Association ■ Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute ■ The Road Information Program ■ United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

For More Information:
202/289-4434 (ARTBA)
703/548-3118 (AGC)

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Dear Representative:

The U.S. transportation network is the circulatory system of the nation's economy and investment in this critical asset can be a significant contributor to efforts aimed at providing a needed short-term economic boost. As such, the 28 national associations and construction trade unions of the Transportation Construction Coalition urge you to include a transportation infrastructure component in any legislative package designed to stimulate the U.S. economy.

Although some transportation projects can take years to complete, a targeted proposal would create new, well-paying jobs in a very quick time frame. Nearly 50 states responding to a recent survey by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials reported **more than 3,000 projects totaling \$18 billion that can be put to contract in 90 days.** Directing funds to these types of projects would take immediate advantage of the 35,000 jobs created by every \$1 billion of new federal highway investment, thereby accomplishing the appropriate objective of a stimulus package—putting money directly in the hands of individuals.

Another benefit of transportation investment is that stimulus spending will be targeted where it will be most effective—in the construction sector of the economy where the mortgage meltdown has eliminated thousands of jobs in the homebuilding and general building segments of the industry. Labor with appropriate skills will be readily available to fill the new jobs. And, according to industry condition surveys, many transportation construction contractors are operating well below capacity and able to absorb new work.

It is important to note that most of the jobs created by a transportation component of an economic stimulus bill would be located in the U.S. and would employ American workers. Transportation investment would generate thousands of on-site construction jobs in every state plus many other U.S. jobs producing the aggregates, construction machinery, cement and numerous other materials used in transportation projects.

In addition to these short-term benefits, increased transportation investment would also enhance the nation's productive capacity by providing necessary infrastructure for long-term growth. The U.S. loses nearly \$100 billion in annual productivity due to traffic congestion, which is not only a barrier to safety but also economic growth as people and products are delayed. Providing funds for ready-to-go projects would help address the impediment to long-term economic growth caused by congestion.

Federal transportation funding, whether short or long-term, is an investment in the nation's future that will provide productivity and quality of life benefits for years to come. We urge you to take advantage of this asset as you develop economic stimulus legislation.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition