

ATM Coalition Applauds House, Senate Passage of SAFETEA-LU Extension

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Calls for Completing Multi-Year Bill Maintaining Funding Levels

WASHINGTON, DC—Janet F. Kavinsky, Vice President of the Americans for Transportation Mobility Coalition, issued the following statement upon Senate passage of H.R. 2887, *The Surface and Air Transportation Programs Extension Act of 2011*:

“The Americans for Transportation Mobility (ATM) coalition commends the House and Senate for passing H.R. 2887, *The Surface and Air Transportation Programs Extension Act of 2011* and sustaining investment in critical transportation projects.

“Now, Congress must turn to passage of a multi-year reauthorization measure. The longer it takes to pass a multi-year bill, the more expensive the problems are to solve. Conditions get worse; land, labor and materials get more expensive. Highway and transit investments facilitate national, regional, and local economic growth in the long term, and create direct jobs in the short term. The longer we wait, the longer the United States forgoes these opportunities.

“A multi-year reauthorization bill must reform and refocus surface transportation policies and programs so that Americans get the greatest return on highway and transit investments. We need to institute performance management and accountability, take action to speed up project delivery, and ensure that costs are minimized and benefits are maximized. The bill must also—at a minimum—maintain investment levels. The federal government provides roughly 45% of highway and public transportation investments around the country. We must continue those investments so that well-paying jobs across the transportation sector—design and engineering firms, construction companies, equipment manufacturers, and materials providers among others—can be sustained.

“The ATM coalition stands ready to bring together business, labor, highway, and transit stakeholders to ensure that Congress has the public support to pass a multi-year surface transportation bill by March 31, 2012. There is no time to waste: six months will be gone in the blink of an eye.”

ABOUT US: *The Americans for Transportation Mobility Coalition is a nationwide effort by business, labor, transportation organizations and concerned citizens to advocate for increased federal investment in the nation’s aging and overburdened transportation system. Visit us at www.fasterbettersafer.org.*