

October 18, 2011

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The Americans for Transportation Mobility (ATM) coalition strongly urges you to maintain current funding levels for federal highway and public transportation programs as you consider appropriations for FY 2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies.

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.

Legislation that closely reflects the funding levels already established in the most recent extension of the highway and transit programs would help mitigate further uncertainty in the construction sector due to the continued delay of major longer-term infrastructure bills. There are adequate resources in the Highway Trust Fund to support current funding levels through FY 2012.

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

---

*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