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## Support Increased Federal Transportation Investment

With enactment of a multi-year reauthorization of the federal highway and transit programs in 2005, it is now essential that the promises of this bill become a reality. The reauthorization measure SAFETEA-LU, calls for specific highway and transit investment levels through FY 2009 and adherence to these requirements will be determined by the annual appropriations bill.

### Highway Investment

The Bush Administration's FY 2009 budget recommends \$39.4 billion for the core federal highway program—\$1.8 billion less than the amount provided in FY 2008 and what is authorized in SAFETEA-LU for FY 2009. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Committee Ranking Member Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) have developed legislation that would ensure SAFETEA-LU's promised \$41.2 billion highway investment level (see accompanying fact sheet) becomes a reality.

- A \$41.2 billion highway investment level is consistent with SAFETEA-LU.
- Cutting federal highway investment would cost jobs and reduce national productivity—two outcomes directly counter to stimulating the U.S. economy.

### Public Transit Investment

SAFETEA-LU calls for increasing federal investment in transit by \$800 million to \$10.3 billion in FY 2008. Unfortunately, the Administration's budget proposal recommends \$200 million less than SAFETEA-LU's guaranteed transit investment level. The proposed reduction would come from the New Starts Account, which funds fixed guideway transit systems like commuter rail.

- Underfunding this program would violate SAFETEA-LU's guaranteed funding levels.
- Transit capital needs far exceed funds provided in SAFETEA-LU.

### Airport Investment

The House of Representatives and Senate Commerce Committees have approved multi-year aviation program reauthorization bills that call for an FY 2009 Airport Improvement Program (AIP) investment level of \$3.9 billion. The House- and Senate-passed FY 2009 budget resolutions also assume \$3.9 billion for the AIP. This level of investment continues the gradual ramp up of airport infrastructure investment that has taken place in recent years and is the minimum amount that should be provided in FY 2009 to address aviation system congestion and capacity constraints.

- Congress should provide a minimum of \$3.9 billion for the AIP in FY 2009

### Message for Congress:

- **Fully fund the core federal highway program at the SAFETEA-LU recommended level of \$41.2 billion.**
- **Reject any effort to reduce federal transit investment and provide \$10.3 billion for the program.**
- **Increase AIP investment to \$3.9 billion.**
- **Pass the FY 2009 transportation appropriations bill in a timely manner to ensure no disruption to the 2009 construction season.**