



PRESS RELEASE

City Transportation Officials Announce Urban Agenda for Federal Transportation Bill

September 9th, 2008, Washington, DC. The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), an organization of city transportation officials from around the U.S., today called for a new vision for urban and metropolitan transportation systems.

Standing together with Chairman James Oberstar of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Deputy Mayor for Transportation and Utilities Rina Cutler and officials from other major U.S. cities decried a lack of investment in critical infrastructure and called for a renewed focus on rebuilding and modernizing the U.S. urban transportation system.

"I'm pleased to be here today with NACTO as they release their platform for the next transportation bill," said Chairman Oberstar. The next bill, scheduled to take effect when SAFETEA-LU expires in September 2009, will fall under the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's jurisdiction.

"Congress must address the unique needs of cities in crafting the next generation of transportation policy," said Deputy Mayor Cutler. "We are looking for a Federal program that strengthens our infrastructure and provides attractive and affordable options through the support of sustainable urban and metropolitan transportation systems."

The NACTO platform calls for a Federal transportation bill centered on three principles:

- Fully funding repairs for American roads, bridges and mass transit;
- Leading the country in combating energy dependence and climate change; and
- Cutting red tape and bureaucracy to deliver projects more quickly.

The health of Philadelphia has always depended on the health of its transportation system. The City is blessed with an extensive multi-modal transportation network, from highways to buses to commuter rails lines. Among these facilities are 35 miles of Federal Interstate Highway and nearly three hundred miles of federal aid highways. However, much infrastructure is at or beyond its useful life and in need of repair or replacement. The fallout from the brief closure of I-95 last March demonstrated how critical these facilities are to the City and the region. It also showed that when the Federal government fails to invest, the burden falls on local government.

Metropolitan areas and core cities are the engines of the U.S. economy. Cities have most of the infrastructure and virtually all of the congestion in the U.S. To compete globally, NACTO members need the support of a strong Federal program. Rebuilding the infrastructure we have inherited is a first step – and one that will take renewed commitment from government at all levels.

NACTO is comprised of transportation officials from major U.S. cities, including Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC. Formed in 1996, the group fosters information exchange about cutting-edge transportation policy between cities and communicates lessons learned to the regional and national level.

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