



**STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS MENINO,
PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,
ON TENTATIVE AMTRAK FUNDING AGREEMENT**

June 27, 2002

“Mayors are relieved that an agreement in principle has been reached to ensure continued operation of Amtrak. Without an agreement, the nation’s transportation system would have been overwhelmed by the more than 60,000 daily Amtrak riders and hundreds of thousands of daily commuters on state-operated lines using Amtrak tracks.

“We commend Meridian, Miss. Mayor John Robert Smith, Chairman of the Amtrak Board, for his leadership in making this agreement possible.

“The events of the past week have demonstrated how vital Amtrak is to our transportation system and our economy. There is clearly solid and broad national support for Amtrak. Mayors from both political parties believe an effective, multi-faceted transportation system that includes a strong, national passenger rail system is essential for our nation’s economic success. We look forward to continued success over the long-term in building and supporting a strong, adequately funded Amtrak.”

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