



April 2, 2003

The Honorable Dennis J. Hastert
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
Minority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Hastert, Senator Frist, Leader Pelosi, and Senator Daschle:

As the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2004 goes to conference, I urge you on behalf of the nation's mayors to retain the Function 400 funding levels, the highway and transit investment levels and the highway and transit spending caps included in the Senate-passed resolution. We also urge that the conference agreement retains the "Contingency Procedure for Surface Transportation" language included in the House-passed resolution updated for the investment levels discussed above.

Transportation is the fundamental building block of the U.S. economy. Investments in transportation infrastructure directly aid the productivity of our economy and will help us meet the economic challenges that we are facing now and in the years to come. Thanks in part to the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), cities are the engines of the nation's economy generating more than 80% of the nation's employment, income, and production of goods and services. Continued investment in our nation's surface transportation infrastructure is critical to the recovery of our economy, job creation, and an integrated intermodal surface transportation system.

TEA-21 represented a significant commitment to improving our nation's surface transportation system. The benefits of this commitment are now evident in cities both large and small and in all of the fifty states. Transportation investment is an economic stimulus creating jobs and helps ensure that cities thrive. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that each \$1 billion invested in transportation creates 47,500 jobs.

Increased investment in the nation's transportation system in the reauthorization of TEA-21 is imperative. Improving the nation's transportation infrastructure will reduce fatalities, increase transit investment and save billions of dollars lost through congestion delays.

As Congress begins to reauthorize TEA-21, the nation's mayors urge you to support the Senate resolution that increases budget authority for highways and transit programs to a total of \$311.5 billion over the six-year period from fiscal 2004-2009 setting the parameters for the reauthorization of TEA-21. We look forward to working with you to achieve a funding level for our national transportation program that addresses these needs and improves the system. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[signed]

J. Thomas Cochran
Executive Director