

**United States Conference of Mayors  
Council of State Governments  
International City/County Management Association  
National Association of Counties  
National Conference of State Legislators  
National League of Cities**

As the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2004 goes to conference, the nation's local and state leaders urge you 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. 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 and counties, 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 city, county, and state elected leaders 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  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors  
[signed]

Larry E. Naake, Executive Director  
National Association of Counties

[signed]

Daniel M. Sprague, Executive Director  
Council of State Governments

[signed]

Donald J. Borut, Executive Director  
National League of Cities  
[signed]

Robert O'Neill, Executive Director  
International City/County Management Association

[signed]

William T. Pound, Executive Director  
National Conference of State Legislatures