



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS
65 Beacon Hill
Henderson, North Carolina 27537

October 8, 2009

RE: Multi-Year Surface Transportation Authorization Bill

On behalf of the over 6,500 members of the American Society of Highway Engineers, I want to encourage you to move swiftly to enact a new multi-year surface transportation authorization bill. Transportation programs need a long term, steady flow of income in order to efficiently plan and design major improvement projects. Whether it is planning for major improvements to economic corridors, improvements to address urban congestion or to meet air quality goals; having a firm basis for projecting future revenue is essential. State and local officials cannot make major long term investment commitments on uncertain monthly budgets. In the current economic climate this is especially true with many states and local governments having to cut their budgets and programs because of shortfalls in local tax revenues. While we appreciate Congress and the President working together to allow continued funding for the nation's highway programs, short term measures such as Public Law 111-68 will not allow for the major investments the nation needs.

Congress will have to act again by October 31 to further appropriate money to U.S. DOT and to further extend program authority for highways, mass transit and traffic safety. In addition, the reduced level of funding made available through the continuing resolution makes the uncertainty around projecting future revenues even greater. Without an assured, multi-year financing bill many of the jobs created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act may be lost in the next year, and the momentum gained in rehabilitating and replacing our aging infrastructure will be lost. The need for greater investment in transportation infrastructure and streamlined project delivery processes has been well documented. We hope that you and other Congressional leaders will move quickly to support the safe, efficient transportation system that our citizens want and our nation's economy must have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. E. Duris".

**Kevin E. Duris, P.E., President
American Society of Highway Engineers**