

March 3, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

We strongly urge you to take full advantage of the unique opportunity provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, H.R. 1, to address significant unmet national transportation needs. Title XII of the Act includes \$1.5 billion for discretionary surface transportation grants, of which \$200 million may be allocated for additional budget authority to support the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) credit program.

Since the inception of the TIFIA program in 1998, hundreds of millions of federal dollars have been augmented by investment through the secured loans, loan guarantees and lines of credit offered as part of the program. Corresponding with the discretionary program established in H.R. 1, TIFIA is a powerful financing tool across modes for projects of regional and national significance. These projects can make substantial positive contributions towards moving people and freight expeditiously around the country.

According to FHWA data, each dollar of TIFIA budget authority supports at least \$8 of Federal credit assistance. Using the maximum TIFIA contribution of 33 percent of a project's eligible costs, each dollar of TIFIA budget authority represents at least \$24 in infrastructure investment. A \$200 million allocation of TIFIA funds would, therefore, represent a minimum of \$4.8 billion in total investment. According to U.S. DOT estimates, \$4.8 billion would support more than 133,000 jobs at a "cost" of only \$200 million. This is particularly important because with the current TIFIA funds completely committed, these additional monies are needed to allow the TIFIA program to accept applications from transit and highway projects across the country.

The inherent multiplier effect of the TIFIA program is entirely consistent with the direction provided in H.R. 1 that priority for discretionary grants program funds be given to projects in which federal resources are a component of an overall financing package. As such, the undersigned entities urge you to utilize \$200 million of the discretionary grants program funds for TIFIA program activities to maximize investments in critically needed transportation infrastructure improvements.

Sincerely,

American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Society of Civil Engineers
National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association
Railroad Cooperation and Education Trust
United States Chamber of Commerce

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Alaska Department of Transportation
Will Kempton, Director, California Department of Transportation
North Carolina Turnpike Authority
Paul N. Wageman, Chairman, North Texas Tollway Authority
Texas Department of Transportation
Ned S. Holmes, Chairman, Transportation Transformation Group
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Flatiron Constructors
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HDR Engineering
Infrastructure Management Group, Inc.
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Transurban
Zachry American Infrastructure