



**American Highway Users Alliance  
Meeting with USDOT Transition Team  
November 25, 2008**



**Background: Highway Issues**

Throughout the election campaign and multiple times since election, President-Elect Obama has shown great leadership on road and bridge issues. The President-Elect has been a consistent supporter of improvements to our nation's highway infrastructure as well as a strong advocate for NEW roads and bridges. We encourage the incoming DOT to pursue an agenda that is consistent with the President-Elect's calls for investment.

**Legislative Recommendations**

**Prioritize: Economic Stimulus, Tax Bill, and Hwy. Authorization.**

- √ AHUA strongly supports the largest possible infusion of highway funding in the **economic stimulus bill**. At least \$18 billion could be used for ready-to-go projects, while additional funds could help support the long-term economic benefits provided by major highway capacity improvements, such as bottleneck removals. However, it is important that a one-time stimulus not be viewed as a substitute for a multi-year Highway Bill, which must be authorized prior to October, 2009.
- √ Any major tax bill should include new revenue sources to sharply expand revenues into the Highway Trust Fund. Adjustments to the user fees on highway fuels are critical to account for lost purchasing power and growing needs since the fees were last raised in 1993. Leadership is needed to make the case for the user fee increase, particular with the current low gas prices.
- √ The new DOT must begin work immediately on the 2009 authorization bill. Policies should reflect the public's strong desire for accountability and reform. We support the view that the authorization bill be performance-based, outcome driven, and clearly focused on national needs:

Key National Needs Worth of Federal Attention Include:

- Congestion Relief on the NHS
- Safety investments on all public roads
- Strategic capacity investments focused on highway freight corridors, and
- Major investments to improve aging bridges & pavements on the NHS.

**Changes to Pursue from Current USDOT Policy**

- √ End short-sighted efforts to shirk federal role for funding.
- √ Set a high bar for public transparency and accountability on Public-Private Partnerships, including the dedication of revenue from tolls and other hwy user fees to the tolled facility.

**5 Executive Order on Environmental Stewardship and Transportation Reviews:**

We highly recommend keeping Executive Order 13274 in place and developing a list of recommended projects of national significance for streamlining. The EO empowers the next Secretary of Transportation to prioritize projects for expedited reviews **across interagency lines**.

The new DOT should continue the current benchmarking and measuring activities related to streamlining bureaucracy and shortening project review times.

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*The American Highway Users Alliance serves the motoring public and broad-range of businesses as their advocate for transportation policies that promote safe and efficient highways and bridges. Our members include 300 non-profit associations and businesses that represent millions of highway users in all 50 States and the District of Columbia.*