



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES STATEMENT ON TRANSPORTATION

Our nation's transportation infrastructure system is the backbone of the U.S. economy and our local hometown economies. Cities and towns areas generate 90 percent of the nation's gross domestic product and house more than 80 percent of the nation's jobs. The National League of Cities (NLC) calls on the Obama Administration to develop and implement, together with its state and local partners, a strong and sustainable multi-modal transportation network that would:

- ***Support local responsibility and decision-making***
A key priority should be to keep the fundamental responsibility for transportation decision-making at the local level. As the majority owners and operators of the nation's transportation infrastructure system, local governments already contribute approximately one third of the dollars financing transportation programs and should have a say in decisions to invest federal transportation funds in projects according to local needs and objectives. Funding under a stimulus package should be based on the current surface transportation program formula.
- ***Ensure equity and connectivity among transportation options***
Reducing congestion, protecting the environment, and stimulating economic development are among the most vital transportation goals. Adopting policies that will increase transportation choices and efficiency for communities and families are key to achieving these goals. Highways receive a great deal of attention with regard to funding but transit, aviation, port facilities, and rail should not be ignored and need greater funding as well.
- ***Ensure a sustainable funding source***
The federal fuel tax is a vital funding source for the highway trust fund. However, to adequately sustain funding, these revenues should be combined with innovative funding mechanisms for transportation, such as vehicle miles traveled (VMT) mechanisms and congestion pricing to ensure adequate funding.
- ***Streamline the processes***
The regulatory review processes should include incentives for innovative project implementation. They should also be streamlined so as not to cause duplicate environmental reviews that may cause project delays.
- ***Improve the quality of life for all citizens***
By utilizing principles of sustainability, innovative technology, and regional decision making with regard to transportation and land use planning, quality of life can be improved through a dramatic increase in safety, reduced congestion, energy independence, and affordable transportation choices.

NLC also calls upon the federal government to ensure that state and local governments have access to the capital markets to provide the funds for local government operations. Bringing a stable economy back to our hometowns will help create good jobs, strong families and stable communities.