



# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

## Recommendations for President-elect Obama's DOT Transition Team

### ***Infrastructure-Based Economic Stimulus Package:***

- **Multi-year program** to incorporate both immediate and longer-term investments;
- **Dual benefit** of spurring immediate job creation and creating basis for long-term economic growth and competitiveness;
- **More than \$120 billion (over and above current expenditures) is needed to address shortfall each year** for necessary repairs and improvements to the nation's transportation infrastructure;
- **Accommodate both ready-to-go projects and stimulate the pipeline** with necessary planning, environmental reviews, and preliminary engineering for next tier of construction to sustain multi-year economic growth;
- **Stimulus funding should not displace already approved state funding for infrastructure;**
- **Invest in private creation rather than growth in government;**
- **State/local match requirements should be waived** in order to gain full immediate impact of stimulus.

### ***Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill:***

- **Timely passage of a SAFETEA LU reauthorization bill is critical component of overall stimulus agenda;**
- **Increase and index the fuel tax** (to restore over 40% loss in purchasing power since last increase);
- **Develop Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) funding mechanism** to supplant the gas tax as enhanced fuel efficiency and alternative energy sources gain popularity;
- **Utilize private capital sources;**
- **Implement needs-based bridge inspection and repair program;** inspections led by licensed engineers; and utilization of new technologies to improve bridge inspections;
- **Integrated planning and environmental reviews** to improve the efficiency of project delivery.

### ***FAA Reauthorization Bill:***

- **Increase Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding;**
- **Raise cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs)** to stimulate additional airport construction; and apply Qualifications-Based Selection to the procurement of engineering services on PFC projects.

### ***Federal Procurement Rules:***

- **Achieve uniform compliance with Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR)** governing allowable overhead and cognizant audits; and provide training and guidance for State DOTs and FHWA Division Offices to promote uniform FAR interpretation.

### ***State Flexibility to Contract Out:***

- **Preserve state flexibility to access the private engineering services** for delivery of cost-effective and innovative transportation solutions.

*The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America's engineering industry, representing approximately 5,700 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America's transportation, environmental, industrial, and other infrastructure. Founded in 1909 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations.*