



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.
Better Michigan.

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To: Michigan Congressional Delegation
Date: March 2008
Re: Transportation

In 2008, Congress will face several key transportation infrastructure issues, including a significant shortfall in the highway trust fund in 2009 as well as wide ranging recommendations on how our country finances its highways, roads, bridges and transit.

Message to Congress

- The Michigan Municipal League believes that to improve quality of life in Michigan's communities, multi-modal transportation infrastructure and transit operations are essential to ensure the safest, most cost-effective transportation system.
- Transportation infrastructure is a strategic investment that is essential to strengthening Michigan's economy. Long-term reliable transportation funding sources must be found to provide base line support for infrastructure improvements and transit operations.
- Federal transportation policy can play a key role in the revitalization of our communities. The federal government must be a full partner in providing support for our nation's transportation and infrastructure system.

Request of Congress

- Increase the minimum guarantee rate-of-return for highway funding to 95 percent for Michigan in the upcoming reauthorization.
- Fully fund federal transportation programs that support bridges, roads, highways, transit and Amtrak and support funding that goes directly to local governments.
- Provide adequate revenues and/or funding mechanisms for operation, maintenance and expansion of public transportation through establishment of a trust fund to be allocated annually and automatically by an equitable formula based on needs
- Spend down surpluses in the Highway Trust Fund while continuing to maintain the Fund's integrity from budget raids.
- Ensure that local officials have an opportunity to participate in the upcoming reauthorization debate.