



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.
Better Michigan.

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To: Michigan Congressional Delegation
Date: March 2011
Re: Transportation and Infrastructure

In 2011 Congress will continue to face several key infrastructure issues, not the least of which is continued debate on a new transportation funding act. The President's 2012 budget calls for a [six-year \\$556 billion transportation funding bill](#), with an immediate influx of \$50 billion to repair, rebuild and modernize transportation infrastructure. Also proposed is establishment of a National Infrastructure Bank and reaching the goal of having 98 percent of Americans connected to broadband.

Message to Congress

- The Michigan Municipal League believes that the best way to create jobs and improve quality of life in our communities now and in the future is by investing wisely in our infrastructure. The condition of our infrastructure is vital for long-term economic growth and recovery. Communities across our state need funds to make repairs to roads and bridges; modernize water and sewer systems; and increase transit opportunities.
- 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.
- "Fix it first" to create more jobs. Target funding directly to communities that prioritize repair of existing roads, bridges, and transit systems as well as sewer and water systems—investments proven to create more jobs across Michigan.
- Support programs that provide funding directly to local governments such as TIGER grants, transit, high speed rail, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. These are critical pieces of a vibrant 21st century infrastructure.
- Ensure that local officials have an opportunity to participate in the debate on a new transportation funding bill.