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## **Congressman Costello Congressional District Meeting**

**August 19, 2008  
Belleville, IL**

Congressman Jerry Costello met with the TFIC Federal Grassroots team from his Congressional district on August 19 in Belleville and 16 individuals were present for the meeting.

Congressman Costello stressed the need for Illinois to pass a capital bill to provide match money for the SAFETEA-LU earmarks. He also ensured that we will not be ignored in the next federal bill. In essence though, it will be harder for Illinois to get a large amount of money next time if we leave money on the table this cycle.

Although the Highway Trust Fund fix passed out of the U.S. House, it stalled in the U.S. Senate. However, Congressman Costello is confident that this will get resolved prior to November 1, 2008.

It is clear to Congressman Costello that we will have to raise the federal gas tax for the next bill (and index the federal gas tax). He also asserted the importance of earmarks in any transportation bill (and that Pelosi's earmark reforms have resolved a number of abuses). Finally, he advocated for a new federal tax dedicated solely to infrastructure.

Congressman Costello concluded by stating that organizations like TFIC should reach out to Obama, and he stressed that infrastructure spending should be a key part of his campaign strategy.

Take a look at the pictures from the successful meeting!