



May 7, 2012

The Honorable Peter Roskam
U.S. Congressman
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Roskam:

On behalf of the members of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, we are writing to ask for your support of several key provisions in the surface transportation authorization measure currently in conference committee. As you know, the House passed a short-term extension of the program (HR 4348), along with some streamlining changes that will make the program more effective, and the Senate passed a longer-term bill that maintains current funding levels and includes other important funding provisions and program changes.

The TFIC is supportive of a longer-term bill, along with streamlining provisions and the following other key characteristics:

- Maintenance of current funding levels at a minimum
- Distributing highway formula funds in a way that reflects all funds Illinois has received in previous transportation bills
- Retaining dedicated gas tax revenues for mass transit and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality grants
- Strong funding for transit and rail
- A new competitive grant program for projects of regional and national significance that will allow Illinois to go after additional funding for projects like the I-74 bridge, the Elgin-O'Hare bypass, the proposed Illiana expressway, CREATE and others.

We encourage you to join the coalition in support of these key provisions and to communicate to your leadership that support. It is critically important that Illinois receive adequate federal funding to help maintain and enhance our transportation infrastructure. With our central location in the heart of the nation, we depend upon thousands of miles of Interstate highways, rail networks and transit networks to move our economy.

Sincerely,

Michael Kleinik
TFIC co-chair
Director-Chicago Laborers LMCC

Doug Whitley
TFIC co-chair
President, Illinois Chamber of Commerce