



March 25, 2009

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

On behalf of the more than 70 state, local and regional organizations that comprise the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, we want to thank you for proposing a capital program in your budget speech last week. As you noted, a capital spending plan is key to the maintenance of Illinois' infrastructure and also to the maintenance of existing jobs and the creation of new jobs.

While you indicated that you are making capital a priority, we are very disappointed by the size of the proposal you outlined and the lack of specificity about new revenues that would properly and legitimately fund such a program. In difficult economic times like the ones we face today, it is critical that government and the private sector collaborate in the development of a proposal that carries broad public support and addresses the actual needs of the state.

The price tag for the necessary state increase in spending to address the actual need is very high -- \$23 billion over five years. Recognizing that finding new revenues during times of economic stress is difficult, TFIC has proposed a minimally adequate, maintenance- and safety-focused program for our transportation infrastructure. This minimally adequate spending increase totals \$13.5 billion for all modes of transportation over five years, and requires a \$1 billion annual increase in revenues to properly fund it.

How does this compare with your proposal? You propose increasing state spending on transportation by a net of only about \$4 billion, and your program would stretch the spending out over a six-year period, rather than over five years. In addition, you propose limited revenue increases to fund it (certificate of title fee increases for transit bonds and the use of existing road fund monies for highway bonds). Lastly, there is no new state funding in your proposal for local roads, passenger rail or CREATE.

We hope you will consider increasing the size of the transportation capital program and the revenues to support it. This is an investment in the state's future that we can't afford to short. We would very much like to work with you and your staff, as well as the members of the General Assembly to develop an adequate transportation investment proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael Kleinik, TFIC co-chair  
Chicago District Laborers - LMCC

Jim Reilly, TFIC co-chair  
RTA chairman

Mike Zahn  
IUOE State Council

John Henriksen  
Illinois Association of  
Aggregate Producers

CC: Secretary Gary Hannig, IDOT