



TFIC Pleased with IDOT
2010 Construction Plan

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Investment in the Illinois transportation network pays economic dividends immediately and for years to come, and Illinois' highway construction program for 2010 recognizes that reality, according to Doug Whitley and Michael Kleinik, co-chairs of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition.

“The State of Illinois recently announced its 6-year highway construction plan, which recognizes both the need to invest in our highway network and the economic benefits of doing so in a big way this year,” said Whitley, who is the President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce as well as TFIC co-chair. “Further, the plan gives the transportation construction industry a roadmap to work from over the next several years, providing the certainty that will enable companies to make purchases and plan for workforce needs in an appropriate and positive manner.”

Illinois' proposed FY2011 highway program is \$2.527 billion, the largest base program ever proposed. In addition, IDOT is proposing \$1.6 billion in new, ready-to-go projects, which are being added to the 2010 construction season. When that accelerated funding is combined with the \$2.527 billion FY2011 base program, this results in an overall highway construction level of around \$4.1 billion during FY2011.

The six-year highway program announced this week totals \$12.84 billion. State pay-as-you-go funding, which had fallen to less than \$200 million a year in last spring's multi-year program, has been increased to an average of \$376 million a year.

“This will mean immediate construction jobs at a time when we are suffering from a punishingly high unemployment rate,” said Kleinik, who is the Director of the Chicago District Laborers – Labor Management Cooperative Committee as well as TFIC co-chair. “When union labor is working, the broader community also benefits because these workers can spend money into the local and state economy.”

The U.S. Department of Transportation has indicated that 28,000 jobs are sustained by each \$1 billion of investment in highway construction.

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