



Adequate Funding for Our Transportation Network Is Essential

Make Transportation Funding a Priority Now!

Illinois' economy, future and stature in the world are based on our superior transportation infrastructure. However, declining investments in recent years have jeopardized Illinois' ability to remain vibrant and to attract economic growth.

Our highways, roads and bridges are in a state of disrepair. The state's public transit systems have significant infrastructure needs and operating resources are insufficient. Congestion slows the efficient flow of goods and services for business, and frustrates long-suffering commuters.

Rail freight grinds to a halt, prompting railroads to seek routes through other states. Without ongoing construction work, the income of union laborers has dropped. And, businesses that rely on timely delivery of goods are hurting.

Illinois needs to invest at least \$5 billion a year in additional funding for its roads, bridges, transit systems and airports, bringing the state's total transportation program level to \$10.9 billion a year. Now is the time! Illinois has gone eight years since the last transportation capital funding package was enacted. The bond funds from that package were exhausted three years ago, and no new bonds have been authorized. It has been eight years since the last license plate increase for transportation and nearly 18 years since the last state gas tax increase. And for mass transit in northeastern Illinois, it has been nearly 25 years since the last comprehensive package was adopted for operating needs.

This is an issue on which Republicans and Democrats in both chambers of the General Assembly can agree. Transportation funding is one of the fundamental responsibilities of government.

Illinois is reaching a tipping point. If we fail to reinvest in transportation this year, it could take us years to recover. And we may never get back the business, investment and jobs – in other words the tax base – on which all other state programs depend.