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**Transportation for Illinois Coalition**  
Statement in response to the Governor's Budget Address  
March 7, 2007

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition is disappointed that the Governor's budget does not recognize the urgency of the need to reinvest in Illinois crumbling transportation systems. Amidst an array of new spending programs, the Governor has proposed investing less than half of what will be needed this year to avoid the long-term decline of roads, highways, rails and public transit around the state. **The economic consequences and job loss that will result from failing to adequately rebuild Illinois transportation networks will surely derail the state's goals for other vital programs.**

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition has called for the first comprehensive capital program since 1999 to create jobs, improve the quality of life for residents and continue to grow the economy.

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition recommends increased investment of \$25 billion over the next five years – \$5 billion annually – for roads and highways, mass transit, freight and passenger rail and downstate airports. Recommended average annual increases include:

- \$1.8 billion for state highways
- \$340 million for local roads
- \$2 billion in Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) capital
- \$61 million, downstate transit capital
- \$400 million, RTA operating
- \$35 million, downstate transit operating
- \$100 million, Chicago Regional Environmental and Transportation Efficiency program (easing freight rail congestion in northern Illinois)
- \$6 million, state rail freight
- \$260 million, intercity passenger rail
- \$20 million, airports outside Chicago

Meeting these recommended capital outlays for FY08 to reinvest in transportation infrastructure will keep the economy moving forward.

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