



CO-CHAIRS
DOUG WHITLEY
MICHAEL CARRIGAN

January 2, 2008

The Honorable Edward Acevedo
State Representative
109 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Representative Acevedo:

Time has about run out. Thousands of highway construction workers have been out of work now for over four years as hundreds of millions of dollars of our highway gas taxes and license plate fees have been diverted to pay for expanded or new programs for which you were unwilling to raise taxes to fund. IDOT forecasts our roads will be in the worst condition ever recorded in the over 30 years they have been keeping pavement condition data *after* the completion of their current six year highway program.

More and more IDOT bridges are being load restricted and many more are becoming structurally deficient as bridge repairs continue to be deferred due to lack of funds. Our transit agencies have been unable to provide a cash match for federal capital funds for over four years. The Federal Transit Administration has stopped reviewing planning documents on needed transit projects because of no state financial support. On January 20th, millions of Illinoisans will have their lives disrupted and inconvenienced as transit melts down in the Chicago area due to state inaction. And meanwhile, downstate passenger rail, while showing remarkable growth, is suffering from dismal on-time performance due to an antiquated infrastructure system and equipment failure that stunts reliability.

No longer can Illinoisans accept the excuse that “political realities” preclude you from taking principled action to solve our transportation problems. You define the “political realities” and it is time for you to redefine them to meet the needs of Illinois citizens.

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition is made up of over 65 labor and business associations and local governmental entities. We believe the following principles are essential for you to act on immediately:

- Return Road Fund diversions.
- Reform the RTA, CTA, Metra and PACE while allowing the RTA to levy local taxes to fund local transit operations.

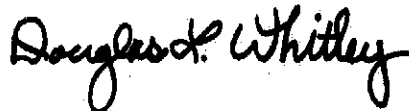
- Enact performance standards to assure all Illinois taxpayers regardless of their politics have their roads and bridges kept in a similar state of repair.
- Repair our roads and bridges ***before*** allocating funds for member initiative projects. It will take an additional \$1 billion over 5 years just to keep our roads in the current condition and another \$1 billion to keep our bridges at a reasonable level of repair and safety. Local governments must have an increase in formula highway funds. A comprehensive highway program would fund \$6.9 billion in additional projects over 5 years for repairing existing roads and bridges, rebuilding aging Interstates, increasing formula funds to locals, and constructing initiatives for new/expanded roads.
- Make sure transit capital is properly funded. A minimum guide ought to be at least half the size of the highway program increase.
- Provide funding for the Passenger Train Capital Plan to implement the modern, safe, convenient and comfortable passenger rail system our citizens and visitors deserve and that our communities require for their economic growth and social development.

Accomplishing these principles we know is not easy. It will require leadership from all of you. Yes, it will also require risk taking. You have our pledge of help and support. Our citizens expect good roads, safe bridges, efficient railways and no disruptions to needed mass transit service. Let us know what we can do to help you meet those expectations.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Carrigan
President, Illinois AFL-CIO
TFIC Co-Chair



Douglas L. Whitley
President, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
TFIC Co-Chair