



2/20/07

## **Transportation for Illinois Coalition Welcomes legislators' focus on rebuilding Illinois infrastructure**

*Business and labor coalition calls for bipartisan support of a plan to invest \$5 billion in Illinois transportation*

Chicago, IL – The Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC) said today the Illinois General Assembly must make a major investment in transportation this year to prevent a decline of transit, roads and rails that could lead to an economic downturn and lost jobs.

“ We appreciate legislative leaders that are focusing on investment for Illinois. The state’s last capital program was launched in 1999 and has long since run its course. We have reached a tipping point. If we fail to invest in our transportation infrastructure this year, it could take Illinois years to recover, “ said Doug Whitley, President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. “

As House Republican leaders today unveiled a capital investment program, Whitley called for bipartisan leadership, saying that, “ Democrats and Republicans, from upstate and downstate have to pull together to protect the economic future of this entire state.”

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois AFL-CIO are leading the TFIC, formed to protect Illinois jobs and investment that depend on transportation. TFIC has called for \$5 billion in new funding this year just for transportation.

“ We have a transportation based economy in Illinois. It’s essential that we bring the entire system forward together – roads, rails and transit systems – to benefit working people, said Mike Carrigan, Acting President of the Illinois AFL-CIO. “We have to keep fighting for jobs, and the tax base that supports everything that government does.”

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