



March 25, 2009

The Honorable «First_Name» «Last_Name»
State Representative
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear Representative «Last_Name»:

On behalf of the more than 70 state, local and regional organizations that comprise the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, we applaud Governor Quinn for proposing a capital program in his budget speech last week. As he noted, a capital spending plan is key to the maintenance of Illinois' infrastructure and also to the maintenance of existing jobs and the creation of new jobs.

While the Governor indicated that he is making capital a priority, we are very disappointed by the size of the proposal he outlined and the lack of specificity about new revenues that would properly and legitimately fund such a program. In difficult economic times like the ones we face today, it is critical that government and the private sector collaborate in the development of a proposal that carries broad public support and addresses the actual needs of the state.

The price tag for the necessary state increase in spending to address the actual need is very high — \$23 billion over five years. Recognizing that finding new revenues during times of economic stress is difficult, TFIC has proposed a minimally adequate, maintenance- and safety-focused program for our transportation infrastructure. This minimally adequate spending increase totals \$13.5 billion for all modes of transportation over five years, and requires a \$1 billion annual increase in revenues to properly fund it.

How does this compare with the Governor's proposal? He proposes increasing state spending on transportation by a net of only about \$4 billion, and his program would stretch the spending out over a six-year period, rather than over five years. In addition, he proposes limited revenue increases to fund it (certificate of title fee increases for transit bonds and the use of existing road fund monies for highway bonds). Lastly, there is no new state funding in his proposal for local roads, passenger rail or CREATE.

We hope you will work to increase the size of the transportation capital program and the revenues to support it. This is an investment in the state's future that we can't afford to short. We would very much like to work with you, your staff, and the administration to develop an adequate transportation investment proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael Kleinik, TFIC co-chair
Chicago District Laborers – LMCC

Jim Reilly, TFIC co-chair
RTA chairman

Mike Zahn
IUOE State Council

John Henriksen
Illinois Association of
Aggregate Producers

CC: Secretary Gary Hannig, IDOT



March 25, 2009

The Honorable «First_Name» «Last_Name»
State Senator
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

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