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**TFIC SAYS ILLINOIS NEEDS SERIOUS
DELIBERATION ON CAPITAL PLAN**

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AUGUST 13, 2008....Today the co-chairs of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition called for an end to posturing and finger pointing by various political leaders with regard to a badly needed capital funding program for the state, pleading for political leaders to compromise on a capital plan that is well defined, puts people to work and leaves the state in better condition when the program ends.

“We call on the political leaders of this state to stop using the obvious need for a long overdue capital program as an excuse to apply political pressure on each other. The rhetorical sparring and political maneuvering among policy makers is delaying progress towards meeting the state’s construction needs,” said Doug Whitley, president of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and co-chair of TFIC. “Illinois needs a capital program that will adequately maintain and improve our transportation network while providing state matching dollars for both federal programs and school construction. The General Assembly must avoid diversion of capital funds for operating budget shortfalls and unspecified projects.”

Michael Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO and co-chair of TFIC added that, “A capital program must restore the integrity of the Road Fund, require equitable distribution of highway funding throughout the state, establish a revenue stream and special fund for public transit construction, re-invest in school construction and provide clearly delineated spending priorities. The TFIC expects the General Assembly to ensure the new program maintains the infrastructure we already have in place and gives local governments a formula funding boost that will enable them to address their transportation maintenance and improvement needs.”