



Roadway Infrastructure Safety Coalition

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American Highway
Users Alliance

American Society of
Civil Engineers

American Traffic Safety
Services Association

National Association of
Counties

National Association of
County Engineers

National Association of
Development Organizations

The Honorable James Oberstar
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office
Building

The Honorable John Mica
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office
Building

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Subcommittee on Highways
and Transit
B-370A Rayburn House Office
Building

The Honorable John Duncan
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Highways
and Transit
B-375 Rayburn House Office
Building

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on the Environment and Public
Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on the Environment and Public
Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable George Voinovich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building

May 8, 2009

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

The Roadway Infrastructure Safety Committee (RISC) applauds you and your staff on your commitment to the transportation authorization bill which is currently being crafted. The committees' progress on developing legislation shows an obvious dedication to meeting our nation's transportation needs. And, you have each individually mentioned safety as a top priority.

The members of RISC wanted to take a moment to outline the Coalition's priorities for the transportation authorization. The Coalition – comprised of the American Highway Users Alliance (The Highway Users), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of County Engineers (NACE), and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) – was formed to show a strong commitment to roadway safety infrastructure.

At a time when there is a massive intergovernmental commitment to address the potential influenza pandemic, we cannot help but contrast these efforts with the current lack of resolve to prevent fatal traffic crashes. **Every day on our highways and streets, more than one hundred people are killed by the “pandemic” of fatal crashes.** Last year, more than 37,000 individuals died on the roadways, and RISC believes that this number can be and must be drastically reduced by making our roads and roadsides safer and more forgiving. In order to accomplish that goal, roadway safety must be the number one priority within the transportation authorization.

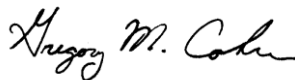
The Coalition believes the following points will move America closer to having the safest roads possible:

- Increase the High Risk Rural Roads program to at least \$1 billion annually and target funding to cost effective improvements for maximum return on investment
- Increase funding for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), with a target of 10% of all highway dollars
- Reserve HSIP funding exclusively for saving lives and make it non-transferrable to other programs
- Require states to establish a process by which local government entities receive federal and/or state financial assistance to comply with the mandates required by federal rules establishing national standards for maintained minimum levels of retroreflectivity for traffic signs and pavement markings.
- Establish a separate obligation limit for the HSIP

With this year's work on the transportation authorization, we in the transportation community have a unique opportunity to reshape transportation infrastructure for generations to come. RISC knows that you, as the transportation leaders in Congress, are leading the charge for this transformation. With these improvements, RISC believes that we will further reduce deaths on our nation's roadways.

RISC looks forward to working with you throughout the authorization process. Please know that the Coalition is available as a resource and can assist with any information or data that is needed.

With warm regards,



Greg Cohen
President and CEO
American Highway Users Alliance



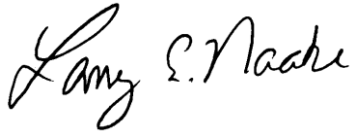
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