



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

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FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

National Infrastructure Investment “TIGER” Grants

Please use to guide phone conversations or in-person meetings with Congressional Members and/or staff.

IMMEDIATE ACTION: *Please support the inclusion of funding for **National Infrastructure Investment Grants “TIGER”** within the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) under development by Congress to ensure vital local and regional programs continue to boost the economy and create jobs. H.R. 1 not only cuts funding for this program by approximately \$1.2 billion in FY 2011, but also rescinds previously authorized funding under the FY 2010 Appropriations law.*

GENERAL STATEMENTS:

- Reforms to and consolidation of federal funding and programs should be looked to in order to save money and increase government efficiency, while decreasing the national debt.
- Domestic, discretionary programs, which are only 12 percent of the federal annual budget, are critical to the ability of local governments and regions to carry out their responsibilities as service providers for both the federal and state governments.
- Due to economic challenges, local governments have experienced reduced revenue streams due to decreased taxes (primarily property and sales) and major reductions in state financial assistance, while at the same time facing an increased demand for services. As a result, local governments of all sizes and in all parts of the nation have been forced to institute significant layoffs, furloughs and service reductions, which could continue for several years to come.
- Federal assistance to state and local governments and regions will help mitigate further layoffs. Current unemployment rates are already at 9.4 percent nationally.
- Federal investment in state, local and regional infrastructure produces jobs and promotes local economic development.
- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by shifting costs to states and local governments, imposing unfunded mandates, or pre-empting local government programs or taxing authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Please consider the following when making **National Infrastructure Investment Grants** funding determinations in the FY11 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1):

- Congestion tripled between 1982 and 2005 and over the next 30 years, our nation will grow by 100 million and highway traffic will double again. The nation needs targeted transportation investments to prepare for the changes in how people, goods and services move through our regions.
- Nearly one-third of all highway fatalities are due to substandard road conditions, obsolete road designs, or roadside hazards. Aggressive and targeted transportation investment is needed now to improve overall safety, and reduce fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways.
- The United States Chamber of Commerce found that GDP per capita would increase by 0.3% for every single point of improvement in the Transportation Index. The Eddington Study in the United Kingdom, the largest single study ever undertaken on this topic, reports that on average a 10% increase in public capital infrastructure stock increases overall GDP by about 2%. Allowing the overall transportation performance to lag behind the average index of the top 5 performing states leaves about \$1 trillion of potential GDP on the table.



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LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE: In our region alone, additional investment through the **National Infrastructure Investment Grants** is needed for: [INSERT PROJECT DETAILS]

Project Name

Project Type and Description

Cost Estimate

Number of Jobs Created

Cost Efficiencies

Project Effectiveness/Improvements for community or region

Start/Finish Time (i.e. immediately, 3 months, 6 months)

- **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:** Investment through the **National Infrastructure Investment Grants** must continually be promoted at all levels of government to ensure competitiveness, job creation, economic growth and the ability to address future challenges and opportunities.
- Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and your commitment to sustained and strategic public investments. We offer our support and assistance to you and your colleagues on these important and timely efforts to stimulate jobs, reinvigorate local and national economies and possibly forestall deep problems within state and local governments.