



For Immediate Release
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National Organizations Call for Federal Transportation Funding to Meet Local Needs

Call on Congress to increase transportation funding and control at the local level

Washington, DC - Local governments are responsible for the vast majority of the nation's transportation system, and federal funding should reflect needs on the ground. That is the message local government organizations sent to Capitol Hill last week.

Leaders from national organizations representing local governments, local elected officials, and transportation officials called on Congressional transportation leaders to direct a greater share of available transportation funds to local governments and their regional agencies.

The joint letter states: "In this next reauthorization, we urge you to reaffirm your commitment to the nation's transportation system by increasing funding to its majority owners using the planning, decision-making and allocation processes modeled after those of the Surface Transportation Program. It is our belief that supporting locally owned infrastructure and emphasizing locally and regionally based decision-making will secure the most cost-effective, and economy- and mobility-enhancing investments to build our future."

The five groups that signed the letter are:

- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations,
- National Association of Counties,
- National Association of Regional Councils,
- National League of Cities, and
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Cities, counties, and townships are seeking federal support that more closely matches local governments' significant stake in the nation's transportation system. Together, they own 78 percent of the nation's road miles, 43 percent of the nation's federal-aid highway miles, 50 percent of the nation's bridge inventory, and operate a majority of the nation's ports, airports and transit systems.

The five organizations requested changes in the nation's surface transportation law, which Congress recently extended until May 31. Congress is now considering reauthorization of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century or MAP-21.

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

