

May 7, 2012

Dear Transportation Bill Conferee:

America's roads, bridges, and transit systems are in dire need of repair. And, Americans are in dire need of jobs. Investments in transportation can solve both those problems by putting people back to work rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure and making it more efficient.

One of four bridges in the U.S. is structurally deficient or obsolete, more than half the miles we drive on federal highways are on roads in less than good condition, and our transit systems – seeing record ridership with each passing year – are stretched beyond capacity.

The BlueGreen Alliance supports the Senate's bipartisan, fully funded transportation bill as it is presently constructed, which provides forward-looking solutions and avoids divisive riders that threaten to stall urgently needed movement forward. Moving ahead with the Senate approach will facilitate creation of more than a million new jobs, particularly in hard hit sectors like construction and manufacturing.

Right now, Europe and China spend two and three times as much as the U.S., respectively, on infrastructure, as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). To compete effectively in a global economy, we need a 21st century transportation system, not a 20th century one.

Furthermore, the U.S. spends approximately \$1 billion a day on foreign oil, while transportation accounts for two-thirds of our oil use and nearly one-third of the nation's greenhouse gas pollution. We need to greatly improve the efficiency of our transportation system to reduce that vast outflow of money for overseas oil and put that money back into American infrastructure and our economy. Directing robust investments to all modes will improve the efficiency of our transportation system, and by also ensuring materials and equipment are sourced domestically, we can foster significant American job creation while maximizing environmental benefit.

An overhaul of our nation's transportation system is long overdue. The BlueGreen Alliance and our partners urge you to pass the Senate bill as it is presently constructed, which will help deliver a cleaner, modern transportation system that moves people and goods more efficiently, makes our economy more productive, creates jobs, and reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

Sincerely,



David Foster, Executive Director  
BlueGreen Alliance