

**United States Conference of Mayors  
National League of Cities  
National Association of Counties  
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
National Association of Regional Councils  
National Association of Development Organizations  
American Planning Association  
American Public Works Association**

December 22, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
The U.S. Capitol  
Room S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
The U.S. Capitol  
Room S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
The U.S. Capitol  
Room H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Minority Leader  
The U.S. Capitol  
Room H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders:

On behalf of the nation's local elected officials, we are writing to express our support for economic recovery highway funding to flow quickly and directly to existing recipients: state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations. This is accomplished by directing funds to the Surface Transportation Program (STP). This ensures maximum flexibility to cities, counties, and to states to undertake bridge, bus and rail, and road projects by dividing funds between the states (37.5%) and local areas (62.5%), as current law has provided since 1991.

Our recommendation does not take funding away from the states. Using STP means that, in addition to a guaranteed share of STP funds reserved for states, local areas also receive a share of funds. This guarantees accountability given current requirements set forth in the federal law. Without STP allocation, metro areas and rural communities have no assurances that they will actually get any funds.

The majority of local government associations, including the National Association of Counties, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, National Association of Regional Councils, and American Public Works Association, have surveyed their

members regarding “ready to go” projects. These projects can be completed by the end of 2010, if not before.

Collectively, we represent the interests of almost every municipality or county government in the United States and strongly urge that current-law commitments to local areas are preserved in distributing funds in the economic recovery package.

Sincerely,



Tom Cochran  
United States Conference of Mayors



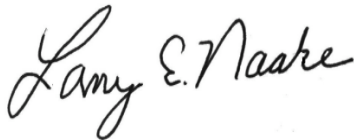
Fred Abousleman  
National Association of Regional Councils



Donald Borut  
National League of Cities



Matthew Chase  
National Association of Development  
Organizations



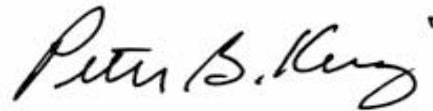
Larry Naake  
National Association of Counties



W. Paul Farmer  
American Planning Association



DeLania Hardy  
Association of Metropolitan Planning  
Association



Peter King  
American Public Works Association

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United States Conference of Mayors – <http://www.usmayors.org>; National League of Cities – <http://www.nlc.org>;  
National Association of Counties – <http://naco.org>; Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations –  
<http://ampo.org>; National Association of Regional Councils – <http://narc.org>; National Association of Development  
Organizations – <http://www.nado.org>; American Planning Association – <http://www.planning.org>; American Public  
Works Association – <http://www.apwa.net>