**Policy Details**

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| **Weekly Legislative Update** |
| 07-14-2008 |
| *On the Hill* **Transportation and Infrastructure****Transportation Hearings*** Last Thursday, the Senate Financial Services Committee held a hearing to examine infrastructure funding shortfalls and seek ways to remove hurdles to improvements. Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) commented on what he felt is a lack of clear national purpose and expressed the need to examine a wider range of both transportation modes and funding methods in order to address national problems.Ranking Member Chuck Grassley (R-IA) talked about the current transportation funding system lacking sustainability, and emphasized the need to define the role of the federal government in transportation infrastructure funding, and revise the ways in which projects are considered and evaluated.

 **Budget/Appropriations*** Last Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee easily passed the fiscal 2009 transportation spending bill by voice vote. Included in the bill is an $8 billion dollar transfer from the general fund to the Highway Trust Fund to protect the Trust Fund from a projected shortfall next year. The money replaces that which was taken from the Fund in 1998 and moved to the general fund.

  *Calendar***SENATE:** **HOUSE:** |