**Policy Details**

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| **Obama's Pick for Transportation Secretary Revealed** |
| 12-18-2008 |
| Although it has not been officially announced, reports are that retiring Representative Ray LaHood is President-elect Barack Obama’s choice to be the next Transportation Secretary. The Illinois Republican served on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the 1990s and has a history of supporting infrastructure investment.  If his nomination is made official, potentially at a news conference today, it will satisfy Obama’s campaign pledge to have a bipartisan cabinet.   The next Transportation Secretary will work with Congress on the reauthorization of highway and transit programs, as well as the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration. There is also the opportunity, and for some the expectation, for transportation and infrastructure to become a more nationally prominent issue in the next administration. Nominations for the Transportation Department move through the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. |