



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA ISSUES STATEMENT ON U.S. HOUSE TRANSPORTATION RE-AUTHORIZATION PROPOSAL

LOS ANGELES -- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa issued the following statement on the transportation re-authorization proposal unveiled today by U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL):

"Today, more than ever, America needs a surface transportation bill that shapes our future by building for our future. We need Congress to give our local businesses the tools they need to create jobs in our cities, by rebuilding our cities.

Chairman Mica's proposal unveiled today represents a welcome opportunity to have a national dialogue on the state of America's surface transportation program. I believe our national dialogue on transportation infrastructure should focus squarely on how gridlock is choking economic growth in our hometowns, in our states, and across America.

I am pleased that the proposal Chairman Mica presented today includes key initiatives of "America Fast Forward", a plan supported by more than 113 mayors to create nearly 1 million jobs by rebuilding America's infrastructure - without adding to our national debt.

Specifically, I want to extend my appreciation to Chairman Mica for expanding and enhancing the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program. This is a key component of our "America Fast Forward" plan. The TIFIA program has proven to be a powerful tool in getting worthwhile projects launched from the drawing board to their construction phase.

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I know that Chairman Mica, who graciously co-hosted a transportation hearing in the City of Los Angeles earlier this year with Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), understands the scale and scope of the transportation and economic challenges facing all Americans.

My firm commitment in the coming weeks and months is to continue to work constructively with Chairman Mica, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer and their colleagues to ensure that the next surface transportation bill that is signed into law by President Obama does not detour from our common goal: putting Americans back to work by rebuilding our cities and our future. America's next surface transportation bill must include innovative financial tools and robust funding so that our nation can build its way back.

Again, I want to thank Chairman Mica for beginning, what I hope will be, a serious and substantial dialogue on the need to build a multi-modal transportation network that all Americans can look to with pride.”

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