



## Economic Policy Institute study: Transportation for America proposal creates more jobs than current transportation law

The United States is in the middle of the worst recession in 75 years, with near 10 percent unemployment. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009 prevented some of the bleeding – and provided much-needed relief to state and local governments – but has not kept up with the pace of joblessness.



Congress has a unique opportunity to grow the economy and create millions of good-paying American jobs by passing a comprehensive transportation bill.

The Economic Policy Institute compared the job creation potential of Transportation for America's proposal to the jobs that would result from a reauthorization of current law, known as SAFETEA-LU.

**If enacted, the Transportation for America proposal for the transportation bill would create more jobs for each billion dollars in transportation investment.**

- Under a \$500 billion bill, T4 America's proposal would support 7.2 million jobs, **400,000 more jobs** than continuing current SAFETEA-LU policies at that same \$500 billion level.
- Those jobs in turn produce "induced effects" that lead to the creation of yet more supporting jobs throughout the economy. Previous studies found that induced jobs could be double the directly related jobs figure.

**T4 America's proposal would provide high-quality jobs to those hit hardest by the recession.**

- Low-wage workers and Americans without a college degree would gain the most under T4 America's plan.
- 80 percent of the new jobs created would be filled by Americans who lack a four-year, college degree.
- The proposal would create jobs at a higher level of unionization (15 percent) than the overall economy (12 percent).

**By rebuilding and repairing existing infrastructure, we can put more people to work and ensure our roads and bridges are safe and efficient for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

- The EPI study echoes findings from the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts: Public transportation generates 31 percent more jobs than new construction of roads and bridges, and repair work on roads and bridges generates 16 percent more jobs than construction of new roads and bridges.
- More of the investment for repair and public transportation projects goes directly to hiring workers, because less is spent on like land acquisition and equipment and than when building new capacity.
- While the T4 America package includes ample funds for new capacity, prioritizing the maintenance of our existing infrastructure and completing the transportation network with adequate transit produces more jobs than would continuation of current policies.

Join Transportation for America in support of a transportation bill that increases public transportation options, rebuilds our nation's roads and bridges and creates good-paying jobs now.

**TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA (T4 America)** is the largest, most diverse coalition working on transportation reform today. Our nation's transportation network is based on a policy that has not been significantly updated since the 1950's. We believe it is time for a bold new vision — transportation that guarantees our freedom to move however we choose and leads to a stronger economy, greater energy security, cleaner environment and healthier America for all of us. We're calling for more responsible investment of our federal tax dollars to create a safer, cleaner, smarter transportation system that works for everyone. [www.t4america.org](http://www.t4america.org)