



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

# An Infrastructure-Based Recovery Agenda

## ISSUE

Significant investments in the nation's infrastructure will create and sustain hundreds of thousands of jobs and support a sustainable economic recovery for years to come. Critical components of an infrastructure-based recovery agenda are before the House and Senate right now:

**Aviation:** Both the House (HR 915) and the Senate (Senate amendment to HR 1586) have passed FAA reauthorization bills that increase investments in airport projects through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP); the House bill makes additional funds available by lifting the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) collected by airports for development projects.

**Water:** The House has a five-year, \$14 billion bill (HR 1262) to reauthorize and expand the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund (SRF) program; the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee adopted an even bigger program (S. 1005) that would invest nearly \$40 billion over five years in water and wastewater infrastructure through the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water SRF programs.

**Highways & Transit:** House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Jim Oberstar (D-MN) has proposed a new, six-year \$450 billion highway and transit program to replace SAFETEA LU; the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is currently working on companion legislation.

All three initiatives have bipartisan support and represent the core of a very effective jobs and economic growth package that can be accomplished in 2010.

## KEY POINTS

- A \$1 billion investment in transportation infrastructure supports over 34,000 jobs; each dollar invested in highway and transit construction generates \$1.80 of GDP in the near term.
- According to the most recent U.S. DOT Conditions & Performance Report, we are investing less than half of what is needed to improve the nation's highway and transit systems; simply maintaining current spending levels will lead to an 11% increase in congestion delays, a 17% worsening of pavement ride quality, and a 13% backlog in addressing already deficient bridges.
- A \$1 billion investment in water and wastewater infrastructure results in an estimated 20,000-26,669 jobs.
- The EPA and GAO estimate the gap between current investments in water infrastructure and what is needed is in excess of \$300-\$500 billion over the next 20 years.

## ACTION REQUESTED

Congress should move quickly to complete work on multi-year water (S 1005) and aviation (HR 915) bills, and make passage of a six-year, \$450 billion surface transportation bill a priority in 2010.