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**ACEC President Strongly Rejects 18-Month Delay On New  
Six-Year Transportation Plan As Inimical To Recovery  
*Throws Support Behind Oberstar, Mica***

WASHINGTON, DC—The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)—comprising thousands of engineering firms at work rebuilding America’s deteriorating infrastructure, and a supporter of President Obama’s economic recovery initiatives—is strongly opposing the Administration’s attempt to delay consideration of a new six-year transportation program.

Raymond emphasized the Council’s support for the effort launched today by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) and Ranking Member John Mica (R-FL) for congressional consideration of a six-year, \$500 billion Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood last week urged Congress to delay consideration of the six-year bill and pass an 18-month extension to allow Congress “the time it needs to fully deliberate the direction of American transportation policies.”

ACEC President Raymond stated: “Delaying consideration of the six-year bill by 18 months to learn more about the subject is like delaying triage on an accident victim in order to allow researchers more time to study the body’s blood system. What will we know 18 months from now that we don’t know already? Two bipartisan commissions have already conducted exhaustive studies and made very straightforward recommendations. It’s time to move forward on legislation.”

Raymond noted that an 18-month extension “simply prolongs the underinvestment and uncertainty that are preventing states and metropolitan areas from pursuing vital improvement projects. Without a six-year bill in place, transportation planners cannot move forward with programs to reduce congestion and improve safety, and subsequently will continue to cut back, delay or cancel projects.”

“Failure to pass a full authorization bill undermines the investments made in the President’s economic recovery program,” Raymond added.

*The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America’s engineering industry, representing nearly 5,700 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America’s transportation, water and energy infrastructure, along with environmental, industrial and other public and private facilities. Founded in 1909 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations.*