



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

NEWS RELEASE

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ACEC Warns Congress: “Just Fixing Potholes Won’t Produce Sustainable Recovery”

WASHINGTON--The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) this week urged Congress to emphasize significant infrastructure improvements in an economic stimulus package that go beyond simple maintenance and repair projects.

In a letter to House and Senate leaders, ACEC President Dave Raymond wrote: “To successfully promote sustainable economic growth, the infrastructure package should not be limited to assisting states with deferred maintenance,” he said. “If we are just filling potholes, then we will miss a unique opportunity to expand and improve our infrastructure so that we can sustain a recovery and successfully compete in the global economy.

“Congress must stay focused on advancing substantive infrastructure projects that increase capacity, reduce congestion, improve safety, protect the environment, and address the nation’s energy needs.” [Click here](http://www.acec.org/publications/ACECLetterEconomicStimulus121808.pdf) to see letter. <http://www.acec.org/publications/ACECLetterEconomicStimulus121808.pdf>

President-elect Barack Obama has reiterated his plan for investing billions in infrastructure when he takes office in January. Raymond emphasized that infrastructure investment should be targeted on “sustainable recovery, not just putting people to work on short term assignments.”

He said the bill should provide enough funding and flexibility for state and local governments to make efficiency and reliability improvements by adding new lanes, improving interchanges, repairing and replacing old bridges, enhancing transit systems, increasing rail capacity, expanding airports and runway space. The bill should also fund water and wastewater projects to repair our crumbling, under-funded environmental infrastructure, which is essential for healthy communities and a vibrant economy.

“Congress should ensure that infrastructure funding does not simply supplant already-approved state and local funding. Simply replacing state infrastructure funds with federal stimulus funds would mitigate the intended impact,” Raymond said.

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the oldest and largest business association of America’s engineering industry, representing approximately 5,700 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America’s transportation, energy, 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.