



Metro

January 17, 2008

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: MATTHEW RAYMOND
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND
REVENUE STUDY COMMISSION REPORT TO CONGRESS**

ISSUE

The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission released its report to Congress on January 15, 2008.

BACKGROUND

The National Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission was created under Section 1909 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The commission was created by Congress to generate a report on how to enhance the nation's transportation system to meet the needs of the United States for the 21st century.

The attached report, which was mandated by SAFETEA-LU, includes a number of major policy recommendations to strengthen the Federal government's commitment to America's transportation infrastructure. The following are a number of the major policy proposals outlined in the 258 page report.

First, the commission has concluded that to improve and appropriately expand our nation's transportation network, more federal resources are needed. The report outlines a diverse set of options to increase surface transportation revenues, including; increasing the fuel tax and other highway user fees, enacting congestion reduction programs and dedicating a portion of custom duties for goods movement related improvements. Second, the commission has identified, as a major goal, reducing congestion in major metropolitan areas by 20 percent on a per vehicle basis by 2025. Third, the commission report emphasizes adopting freight movement as an issue of national significance and suggests that America fund freight improvements through custom and/or container fees.

The commission report also includes proposals to improve safety on our nation's surface transportation system, reduce the transportation sector's contribution to climate change, and includes a proposal to create a National Surface Transportation Commission that would, in concept, ensure that political considerations do not drive the federal government's transportation funding priorities. Among other major recommendations, the commission has proposed a complete overhaul of the Federal surface transportation program. Specifically, the commissioners endorsed the idea of consolidating the current number of federal transportation programs, now numbering 108 programs, to ten new multimodal programs.

NEXT STEPS

Metro is working in cooperation with the Orange County, Riverside County, San Bernardino County and Ventura County transportation agencies to prepare a letter in response to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission's report to Congress. This letter will be shared with Congressional leaders on transportation-related committees and members of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation.

Metro Government Relations will work with major transportation stakeholders to ensure that those reforms proposed by the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission that benefit our agency and region are adopted into law when legislation to reauthorize SAFETEA-LU is considered by Congress in 2009.

Prepared by:

Raffi H. Hamparian
Government Relations Manager, Federal Affairs