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Building America's Future Praises Infrastructure Investments and Accountability Measures in U.S. House Jobs Bill

Bipartisan, National Infrastructure Coalition Urges U.S. Senate to Include a National Infrastructure Bank

Calls on Congress to Pass a Six-Year, Reformed Transportation Bill Next Year

Washington, D.C. - Today the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that will invest an additional \$43.3 billion towards infrastructure needs in a variety of areas including highways, transit, intercity passenger rail, airports, safe drinking water, and school construction. The U.S. Senate is expected to consider the jobs package in January 2010.

The House of Representatives included key transparency, reporting and oversight measures that were contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to ensure funds are spent appropriately and the American taxpayer can track these investments.

In response, Marcia Hale, president of Building America's Future, issued the following statement:

"These investments in America's crumbling infrastructure in the short-term will give Congress the necessary time to pass a six-year, reformed transportation bill that changes the way we invest in our transportation infrastructure in the long-term. The Senate will act on this bill in January and we will continue to pursue smart investments and key policy reforms that will spend scarce resources more wisely in a variety of infrastructure areas."

"Much of this funding will result in not only better infrastructure – safer roads, improved transit, improvement to the quality of classrooms for our children, clean drinking water – but it will also have the added benefit of creating thousands of jobs.

"We are disappointed that the House did not include a National Infrastructure Bank in their version of this legislation, but we are optimistic that the White House and Senate can take additional steps to make this a reality. A National Infrastructure Bank will serve as a long-term vehicle for substantial reform and merit-based investment. We urge the Senate to include this important reform to depoliticize infrastructure investment and create major new opportunities to fund regionally and nationally significant transportation, water, broadband and smart grid projects."

Breakdown of \$43.3 billion Infrastructure Investment:

- Highways: \$27.5 billion
- Transit: \$8.4 billion
- School Renovation: \$4.1 billion
- Clean Water: \$2 billion
- Amtrak: \$800 million
- Airports: \$500 million

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Building America's Future (www.BAFuture.org) is a bipartisan and national organization dedicated to bringing about a new era of U.S. investment in infrastructure that enhances our nation's prosperity and quality of life. Comprised of state and locally elected officials from around the nation, Building America's Future seeks to advance a new national vision for infrastructure investment that focuses on economic growth and global competitiveness, job creation, and environmental sustainability.

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