



33 Broad Street | Suite 300 | Boston, MA 02109  
Tel: 617-502-6240 | Fax: 617-502-6236

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July 28, 2008

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senator  
2400 JFK Building  
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Senator Kennedy:

I write to you today on behalf of more than 100 major businesses and institutions to urge your support of House bill 6532 to transfer \$8.017 billion to the Highway Trust Fund.

As you know, this transfer of funds will help to offset a projected \$3.3 billion shortfall in the trust fund in Fiscal Year 2009. The \$8.017 billion replaces the amount transferred out of the fund in 1998.

All states are dependent on the Highway Trust Fund for transportation capital needs and are feeling the pains of a slumping economy. Here in Massachusetts, our Governor-appointed Transportation Finance Commission revealed a \$15-19 billion transportation funding gap in the Commonwealth over the next 20 years for us to simply operate and maintain our existing transportation infrastructure. This crippling shortfall leaves little room for the critical expansion and enhancement projects that are vital to support our competitive position and economic growth potential.

As a nonprofit urban planning and city-building organization, A Better City strongly supports the notion that transportation is a critical yet often overlooked component to economic development. We are a leading member of a group called the Massachusetts Transportation Investment Coalition – a diverse collaboration of organizations representing business, industry, planning, labor, municipal, and environmental interests working together for increased transportation investment in Massachusetts.

A well-planned, well-financed, and well-maintained transportation system efficiently connects people to jobs and services, provides economic opportunities to diverse communities and strengthens businesses and public institutions, and improves our air quality. We therefore support this pending legislation as a means to adequately fund the repair and maintenance of our existing national transportation system.

We thank you in advance for your support and leadership on this critical investment in our nation's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Dimino  
President & CEO

cc: Honorable United States Senator John Kerry  
Honorable United States Senator Max Baucus  
Honorable United States Senator Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman Steven A. Baddour, Joint Committee on Transportation  
Chairman Joseph F. Wagner, Joint Committee on Transportation  
Secretary Bernard Cohen, Executive Office of Transportation

