



To: All Members of the Massachusetts Legislature
From: The Massachusetts Transportation Investment Coalition
Date: April 26, 2007

A recent report by the legislatively created Transportation Finance Commission points to an impending transportation crisis for the Commonwealth. Nearly every transportation agency is suffering from budget shortfalls, and we face a staggering \$15 - \$19 billion gap in funding over the next 20 years. Addressing this crisis is essential to protect the safety of residents, to increase the state's economic competitiveness and to advance environmental goals. The undersigned organizations have joined together and formed a Transportation Investment Coalition because we believe that increased investment in our transportation system is vital for the Commonwealth.

We are writing today to alert you to the formation of this Coalition, and to ask that you closely examine and take seriously the recent Transportation Finance Commission report. We believe this report accurately, if not conservatively, sets out the scope of our transportation funding challenges. **Bold and innovative action will need to be undertaken to address the challenges outlined, and as such, we hope you will evaluate potential solutions and implement those that will be effective.**

Still growing, the Transportation Investment Coalition is comprised of a diverse group of interests that includes business, industry, labor, environmental, environmental justice, municipal and regionally focused organizations. We are united in our belief that we cannot allow our transportation systems to deteriorate further and that we should not cease advancing strategic expansion and enhancement projects that will provide immense economic and environmental benefits to the Commonwealth. This coalition is dedicated to working together to advance the following mission:

To meet mobility needs, foster economic growth, create jobs, increase economic competitiveness and sustain a healthy environment, the Massachusetts Transportation Investment Coalition advocates for an efficient, equitable and effective transportation system for the Commonwealth. To this end, the Coalition supports legislation, programs and policies to adequately fund the repair and maintenance of the Commonwealth's existing transportation system, as well as investment in strategic expansion and enhancement projects.

Investment in our transportation system is essential to meet basic needs, but also presents an opportunity to grow our economy, increase mobility, connect thriving communities and promote a wide range of public policy goals. We look forward to working with you to advance solutions to our transportation challenges that will effectively address the Commonwealth's needs.

Sincerely,



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A Better City

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/S/ Eugene B. Benson

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Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Congressman Michael E. Capuano
Congressman John Olver