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Action Taken to Repair Highway Trust Fund Shortfall

AASHTO Executive Director John Horsley Issues Statement on Move by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee

We at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) are extremely pleased to learn that the Senate transportation appropriations subcommittee has acted in support of efforts by Finance Committee leaders Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) and Charles Grassley (R-IA) to resolve a potential \$3.3 billion shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund. A failure to resolve this crisis would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of highway construction jobs this fall.

Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Minority Member Senator Christopher Bond (R-MO) are to be commended for their bipartisan leadership in moving this issue forward.

The subcommittee is proposing full funding of federal-aid highway programs at \$41.2 billion, the amount that was authorized for FY 2009 under the current highway and transit legislation. It is also proposing a transfer of \$8.017 billion from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund to offset any shortfall and enable full funding of critical highway programs.

This action begins the process of ensuring that the deficit crisis with the Highway Trust Fund is resolved. It will both save American jobs and also continue important projects to improve our transportation system and boost our economy.

Transportation officials across the nation are hoping to see these provisions approved by the full Senate Appropriations Committee at its scheduled meeting tomorrow afternoon and ultimately enacted into law.