



December 16, 2008

The Honorable Salvatore F. DiMasi
State House Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DiMasi:

Our Transportation Future (OTF), formerly the Massachusetts Transportation Investment Coalition, is a statewide coalition of 21 business, planning, transportation, and environmental organizations. We believe the Commonwealth's transportation system is facing a severe system-wide funding crisis and that swift action is urgently needed to address this crisis and meet the state's mobility needs, foster economic growth, and sustain a healthy environment. You hit the nail on the head in today's Boston Globe when laying out the state's dire need to address the crisis in our transportation system.

It is OTF's position that the Legislature should **fix it once, and fix it right**. The solution to our transportation crisis must consist of a comprehensive package of **cost saving reforms, efficiencies and new revenue**, with an **increase to the state gas tax at the center, to adequately fund all our transportation needs**.

Our members appreciate the reform measures accomplished by the Legislature and the Governor this past year. Reform must be part of the solution, and there is likely even more we can do to reform the system. We also applaud those members of the Legislature who have recognized the severity of the situation and opened a discussion about increasing the state gas tax, which has not been raised since 1991, and which has lost much of its purchasing power during that time. Certainly, an increase in the gas tax is an essential part of any comprehensive solution, but only a part.

Most importantly, we urge you to adopt a comprehensive set of solutions, rather than a "quick fix" that might solve the problem only for one agency or one roadway. The comprehensive package must quickly infuse funds to help beleaguered, faltering state transportation agencies in the short term and also provide lasting, long term, reliable funding for decades to come.

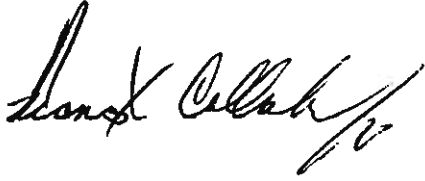
As the bi-partisan Transportation Finance Commission warned, all our transportation systems—Mass Highway, the Turnpike, local roads, bridges, regional transit authorities, and the MBTA—have a combined \$15 to \$19 billion funding gap over a period of 20 years.

What's most troubling is that this shortfall only relates to maintaining our existing transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair. It does not include new projects and improvements we need in the years ahead to

address environmental concerns, to enhance our competitive advantage, and to improve our overall quality of life.

In the upcoming weeks, we look forward to working with you to advance solutions to ensure that the residents of Massachusetts have a safe, reliable and effective transportation system. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Francis X. Callahan, Jr., President
MA Building Trades Council, AFL-CIO



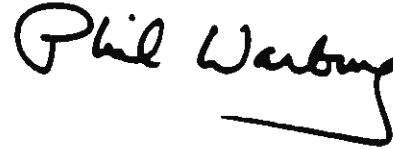
Marc Draisen, Executive Director
Metropolitan Area Planning Council



Richard A. Dimino, President & CEO
A Better City



John Pourbaix, Executive Director
Construction Industries of Massachusetts



Phil Warburg, President
Conservation Law Foundation