

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

February 17, 2009

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

A \$150 Billion Investment in Our Nation's Infrastructure – The Largest New Investment Since
the Construction of the Interstate Highway System

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes a long-overdue, historic investment in our national infrastructure – including our roads, bridges, public transit, housing and broadband – to save or create nearly 400,000 jobs for American workers today and power enhanced economic growth for the decades to come. With the recent report that our nation's infrastructure earns a "D" grade for its poor and decaying condition, it is clear that we can no longer wait to take bold action to protect our families, businesses and communities. The Act meets this challenge by ensuring that all parts of the country can benefit from this bold effort by ensuring that all states receive funding; localities have the ability to use funds for their highest-need projects; and rural areas receive much-needed funds to address the backlog of clean water and infrastructure projects.

The Act includes \$150 billion in new federal infrastructure funding that reflect the President's belief that we can only strengthen our economy by investing in local communities:

- **Investing Over \$17 Billion in Public Transit and High-Speed Rail to Reduce Our Dependence on Foreign Oil:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes an unprecedented investment in public transit and innovative high-speed rail initiatives to bring new, efficient transportation alternatives to millions of Americans across the country and finally start breaking the grip of foreign oil on our nation's economy.
- **Safeguarding the Roads, Bridges, Dams, Ports, Rail and Water Systems Our Families Use Everyday with a Historic \$40 Billion, Two-Year Investment:** As our national infrastructure has crumbled, not only has our infrastructure become more unsafe for everyday use, but it has also become more vulnerable to attack. The Recovery and Reinvestment Act addresses this challenge head-on by focusing on ready-to-go repairs and maintenance that will make our infrastructure systems more resilient and secure, including supporting over 2,000 water infrastructure projects and enhancing the security of 90 major ports.
- **Expanding Broadband Access throughout America:** America once led the world in broadband access, but for years has fallen further and further behind other nations in our technology capacity, thereby depriving American citizens the necessary tools for success in the global economy. The Recovery and Reinvestment Act takes steps to ensure that nearly every community in America – urban, suburban and rural – has high-speed broadband access.
- **Addressing the Effect of Foreclosures in Our Hardest-Hit Communities:** As countless communities have seen their blocks consumed by more and more foreclosure signs, mayors and governors have not had the resources they need to address this growing crisis. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act helps communities rebuild by providing an infusion of over \$10 billion to help expand the availability of quality affordable housing and support communities seeking to reduce the effects of foreclosures in their neighborhoods.