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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, *MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR*  
RUTH VAN MARK, *MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR*

October 26, 2011

The Honorable John Mica  
Chairman  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mica,

I am writing to inquire about recent news reports in which you described your plan to reauthorize the nation's surface transportation programs at current funding levels for six years. In these reports, you were quoted as saying "we will find a way to fund it at least at current levels."

As you know, maintaining current levels of funding plus inflation over six years for the nation's surface transportation programs would require \$339 billion.

Those same news reports indicate that you support a six-year proposal with funding levels of \$286 billion, which would be inconsistent with your commitment to fund the bill "at least at current levels." A six-year surface transportation bill funded at \$286 billion would, in fact, represent a 16 percent cut compared to the \$339 billion level, which would put hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk immediately.


Because of these inconsistencies, I am writing to ask for clarification as to whether the proposal you support fully funds surface transportation programs at \$339 billion over six years, or if news reports stating that you support funding levels of \$286 billion are correct.

The Senate has developed a bipartisan proposal, MAP-21, that reauthorizes surface transportation programs at \$109 billion over two years, which represents current funding levels indexed for inflation. My Senate colleagues and I are seeking offsets of \$12 billion, which is the estimated revenue shortfall of the Highway Trust Fund over two years. If our reauthorization proposal was extended to a six-year period, the needed offsets would be approximately \$75 billion.

I am willing to consider a six-year transportation bill at current funding levels plus inflation if it is fully paid for in a way that has bipartisan support and does not cut jobs elsewhere in the economy.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in clarifying your views in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Boxer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

Barbara Boxer  
Chairman

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee