



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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ACEC Urges Quick Adoption of National Fiscal Commission's Plan to Strengthen Transportation Network

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)—the business association of the engineering industry—today strongly endorsed recommendations adopted by the co-chairs of The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform to significantly increase revenues to support critical road, bridge and transit projects.

The report released by Chairmen Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson spells out a comprehensive plan to address the nation's runaway deficit, while at the same time recognizing the need to make necessary investments to upgrade the nation's critical transportation infrastructure. Specifically, the Commission report calls for a phased-in, 15 cent gas tax increase, beginning in 2013, to be dedicated solely to transportation. This tax has not been adjusted since 1993 and has lost one-third of its purchasing power over the last 17 years.

"Even in a document that lays out very tough choices to cut spending and balance the budget, infrastructure investment is set aside as essential to future economic growth and competitiveness," said ACEC President David A. Raymond. "Congress has heard this message many times already – we need to restore the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and embark on a major building effort that will create jobs and economic growth both now and for years to come."

The Commission's infrastructure investment proposal is consistent with previous recommendations of two other independent, bipartisan commissions established by Congress—the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission (2008) and the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission (2009)—which also recommended increased federal investment in transportation infrastructure, and that it be paid for by users in a variety of ways, including an increase in the federal motor fuel tax.

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America's engineering industry. Council members numbering more than 5,000 firms and representing more than 500,000 employees throughout the nation are engaged in the development of America's transportation, water and energy infrastructure, as well as environmental, industrial and other public and private facilities. Founded in 1909 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations.