



June 16, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

As representatives of the nation's cities, we are writing to convey our support for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) that was first authorized in the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act" (MAP-21) and enacted in 2012. This new initiative simply reinforces the importance of local elected officials being at the table to ensure that we secure maximum economic and transportation benefits from available federal resources.

Since then, TAP resources have been allocated to cities, counties and regions, supporting local elected leaders in advancing investments in transportation alternatives that enhance the safety and performance of our highway and street networks. For some time, mayors and other city elected officials have been strong partners with you and others in Congress on surface transportation, especially as you affirm the important role of local elected leaders in deciding how federal resources are invested, as you did in establishing the TAP Program. We thank you for responding to our recommendations to localize more of the available federal highway program resources.

As you move forward with MAP-21 renewal, we are supportive of technical adjustments to make the TAP program more effective in support of local project needs. As one example, we urge you to follow the STP Program by delivering obligation authority with the formula program funds, as the STP program has provided since 1992. This would be a significant improvement over current law.

As city officials, we thank you for your leadership on this program, and we urge you to continue to affirm the role of local elected leaders as you advance legislation renewing MAP-21. We appreciate this opportunity to share our views with you.

Sincerely,

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President, National  
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