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[National Economic Crossroads Transportation Efficiency Act] [loose]

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THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CROSSROADS TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT

Today, President Clinton will announce the National Economic Crossroads Transportation Efficiency Act (NEXTEA), a six-year, \$175 billion investment program to improve America's highways, bridges, transit systems, and railroads; lower the toll in lives and health care costs from motor vehicle crashes; enhance America's environment; and support mobility and economic prosperity. NEXTEA increases surface transportation funding by \$17 billion, or 11 percent, over the \$157 billion authorized by ISTEA.

■ **"REBUILDING AMERICA" -- \$175 BILLION INVESTMENT WHILE BALANCING THE BUDGET**

- Increases funding for core highway programs by 30 percent over ISTEA levels.
- Provides greater flexibility for states and localities to target funds that best meet community needs.
- Expands programs for innovative financing to leverage federal dollars.
- Provides \$600 million to deploy intelligent transportation technology to cut travel time and enhance safety.

■ **PUTTING A STRONGER EMPHASIS ON SAFETY**

- Increases funding for the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration by 25 percent to \$395 million.
- Increases highway and truck safety funding by \$2 billion.
- Increases funding for drunk driving prevention by 60 percent.
- Creates and expands programs to increase the proper use of safety belts and child restraints, reduce drunk and drugged driving, and continue research into building safer roads and vehicles.

■ **PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

- Increases funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) by 30 percent, to \$1.3 billion annually.
- Increases Transportation Enhancements funding by more than 25 percent to support bike paths, pedestrian walkways and other community-oriented projects.
- Expands CMAQ eligibility to include regions that fail to meet any new air quality standard.
- Provides greater flexibility for state and local investment in non-polluting modes of transportation.

■ **INVESTING \$600 MILLION TO MOVE PEOPLE FROM WELFARE TO WORK**

- Supports flexible, innovative transportation alternatives, such as vanpools, to get people to where the jobs are.
- Increases incentives for states and localities to provide job training for federally-funded technology and construction projects.