

Americans for Transportation Mobility Response to Deficit Commission Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2010

Contact: Janet Kavinsky/ 202-657-2616
Jkavinsky@uschamber.com

Janet Kavinsky, Executive Director of the Americans for Transportation Mobility Coalition, issued the following statement today in response to *The Moment of Truth*, the report of The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform:

“The Americans for Transportation Mobility Coalition agrees that, ‘We all do have a patriotic duty to make America better off tomorrow than it is today.’

“According to the World Economic Forum, the United States ranked 11th in the world in basic infrastructure in 2010. The Commission’s report offers a responsible approach to addressing the challenge of making the United States number one in the world again.

“The United States needs to transform some of the important economic infrastructure of our country – our roads, bridges and public transportation systems – from a system designed for the 20th century to one that will support a 21st century economy and the quality of life of its citizens. Other countries have recognized the competitive edge that transportation gave the United States in the global economy and they are designing and building their own networks from scratch with the newest, best methods and technologies. Yet, the United States is significantly under investing in its roads, bridges and public transportation systems and must reform the federal transportation programs to support the U.S. economy of the future.

“By increasing user fees and indexing them to inflation to maintain their purchasing power, as part of the broader set of recommendations in the Commission’s report to address the deficit and debt, highway and transit programs would be on a sustainable path in the near term until a new user fee system that is consistent with future increases in fuel efficiency and vehicle technologies can be implemented.

“Through reorienting Highway Trust Fund spending to the most pressing highway and public transportation needs, and ensuring that existing funds are not wasted, the Commission is making a recommendation that demonstrates fiscal responsibility and will spur economic growth through targeted investments that produce results.

“By rooting federal highway and transit investment in mandatory spending limited to receipts, the Commission is addressing the growth of government spending and the issues of the national debt and budget deficit. However, it is also important to recognize that a small number of important transportation programs are currently supported with general funds and should be continued.

“It is time to reinvigorate our own highway and public transportation systems, and all levels of government and the private sector must have a role in doing so. The Americans for transportation Mobility Coalition applauds the Commission for recognizing that infrastructure investment can help the economy grow, maintain America’s global competitiveness, and make it easier for businesses to create jobs.