



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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NEW YORK CITY MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO, OKLAHOMA CITY MAYOR MICK CORNETT LEAD BIPARTISAN GROUP OF MAYORS CALLING FOR LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION BILL THAT INCREASES FUNDING

More Than 100 Mayors Participate in Infrastructure Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill and In Districts Across Country

Washington, D.C. – In a bipartisan effort led by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, who Chairs The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Cities of Opportunity Task Force, and U.S. Conference of Mayors Second Vice-President Oklahoma City (OK) Mayor Mick Cornett, more than 100 mayors around the country -- including 30 mayors who traveled to Washington, D.C. today -- urged Congress to enact a long-term renewal of the federal transportation law that significantly increases investment in our roads, bridges, and transit and directs more funding to meet the infrastructure needs of cities and their metropolitan regions.

Mayors are particularly concerned because current federal transportation funding -- Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) -- is set to expire on May 31.

In addition to meeting with a number of members of Congress, including U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration Ranking Member Chuck Schumer and Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee James Inhofe, who has jurisdiction over the bill, the mayors held a press conference on Capitol Hill to call for a long-term renewal bill with increased resources and more locally-directed funding to address the growing needs in cities where populations are steadily rising.

The mayors stressed that local governments own and operate 78 percent of the nation's road miles, 43 percent of the nation's federal-aid highway miles, 50 percent of the nation's bridge inventory, and support our local and federal transit systems.

"U.S. metropolitan areas contribute significantly to our national economy and quality of life, generating 90 percent of the nation's GDP and representing 85% of its population. Cities and their metros are expected to account for 92% of the nation's future economic growth and attract 66 million more people over the next three decades." "This growth will bring dramatic and increasing pressures on our transportation systems," said USCM Second Vice President Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett. "We need a strong long-term renewal bill so our cities and metro areas can continue their current trend of driving the national economy forward."

The mayors also highlighted the critical importance of investing in and modernizing America's infrastructure systems, which are essential to our economy, and explained that the country's outdated transit, highways, streets and bridges are a drag on our national recovery -- and present a once-in-a-generation opportunity to drive job and wage growth, manufacturing, trade and global competitiveness.

"This bipartisan coalition is here in Washington, and in districts around to country, fighting for increased funding for our transit, roads, and bridges -- because nothing less than our safety and economic future are at stake," said Mayor de Blasio. "New Yorkers feel the lack of investment every single day, from subways too crowded to even board, to century-old bridges in dire need of repair. We shouldn't be standing on the brink of the next crisis. The time for Congress to act is right now, by passing a long-term bill that increases funding and directs more to cities and our vital infrastructure needs."

The mayors pointed out that cities and localities are becoming more and more dependent on federal transportation funding to maintain vital highway and transit networks, with transit ridership reaching record highs. They warned that current funding levels fall woefully short of what is needed to meet the current demands of \$50 billion annually, much less grow these systems.

Finally, the mayors noted that infrastructure investment generates good jobs for workers in local communities. Every \$1 billion invested in federal transportation spending supports 13,000 jobs so clearly improving our transportation infrastructure will generate jobs and help more people to participate in the economy, increase competitiveness, and ensure residents can get safely to work, school, child care, medical visits and stay connected to family and friends.

"It is our firm belief that local elected officials who are responsible for the vast majority of the nation's transportation system are best suited to direct available transportation resources to projects that best serve their communities and regions," commented USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran. "They know the local need and they clearly understand how expanding transportation options can improve the quality-of-life for people in our nation's cities."

The following mayors participated in Mayor's Transportation Advocacy Day:

In Washington, D.C.

Mayor Mick Cornett, R - Oklahoma City, OK, USCM Second Vice-President
Mayor Bill de Blasio, D- New York City, NY, USCM Cities of Opportunity Task Force Chair
Mayor Thomas Armstrong, Not Affiliated- Grimes, IA
Mayor Ralph Becker, D- Salt Lake City, UT
Mayor Virgil Bernero, D- Lansing, MI
Mayor Muriel Bowser, D- Washington, DC
Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, D- West Sacramento, CA
Mayor William Carpenter, D- Brockton, MA
Mayor JM Skip Conkling, D- Altoona, IA
Mayor Joy Cooper, D- Hallandale Beach, FL
Mayor Frank Cownie, D- Des Moines, IA
Mayor John Giles, R- Mesa, AZ
Mayor Hardie Davis Jr, D- Augusta, GA
Mayor Kevin Dumas, R- Attleboro, MA
Mayor Jorge Elorza, D- Providence, RI
Mayor Betsy Hodges, D- Minneapolis, MN
Mayor Christopher Koos, Not Affiliated- Normal IL
Mayor Stephanie Miner, D- Syracuse, NY
Mayor Kenneth Miyagishima, D- Las Cruces, NM
Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, Not Affiliated- Rockville, MD
Mayor Ed Pawlowski, D- Allentown, PA
Mayor Laurel Prussing, D- Urbana, IL
Mayor Tomas Regalado, R- Miami, FL
Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, D- Somerset, MD
Mayor Thomas Tait, R- Anaheim, CA
Mayor Nan Whaley, D- Dayton, OH
Mayor Dawn Zimmer, D- Hoboken, NJ

In district –

Mayor Kevin Johnson, D- Sacramento, CA, USCM President
Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, D- Baltimore, MD, USCM Vice President
Mayor Kasim Reed, D- Atlanta, GA, USCM Transportation and Communications Committee Chair
Mayor Jud Ashman, D -Gaithersburg, MD

Mayor Greg Ballard, R- Indianapolis, IN
 Mayor Ras Baraka, D- Newark, NJ
 Mayor Tom Barrett, D- Milwaukee, WI
 Mayor Dewey Bartlett, R- Tulsa, OK
 Mayor William Bell, D- Birmingham, AL
 Mayor Steven Benjamin, D- Columbia, SC
 Mayor Michael Bennett, D- Aberdeen, MD
 Mayor Richard Berry, R- Albuquerque, NM
 Mayor Michael Bodker, R- Johns Creek, GA
 Mayor David Bowers, D- Roanoke, VA
 Mayor Michael Brennan, D- Portland, ME
 Mayor Robin R. Christiansen, D- Dover, DE
 Mayor Dan Clodfelter, D- Charlotte, NC
 Mayor Michael Coleman, D- Columbus, OH
 Mayor John Cranley, D- Cincinnati, OH
 Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo, R- Bensalem, PA
 Mayor Robert Donchez, D- Bethlehem, PA
 Mayor Denny Doyle, D- Beaverton, OR
 Mayor Mike Duggan, D- Detroit, MI
 Mayor Carolyn Dull, I- Staunton, VA
 Mayor Buddy Dyer, D- Orlando, FL
 Mayor John Engen, D- Missoula, MT
 Mayor William Euille, D- Alexandria, VA
 Mayor Kevin Faulconer, R- San Diego, CA
 Mayor Andrew Fellows, D- College Park, MD
 Mayor Bill Finch, D- Bridgeport, CT
 Acting Mayor Donald Fracasso, I- Southfield, MI
 Mayor Karen Freeman- Wilson, D- Gary, IN
 Mayor Patrick Furey, D-Torrance, CA
 Mayor Eric Garcetti, D- Los Angeles, CA
 Mayor Robert Garcia, D- Long Beach, CA
 Mayor Thomas Gillen, D- Oswego, NY
 Mayor Andrew Gillum, D- Tallahassee, FL
 Mayor Jeffrey Graham, I- Watertown, NY
 Mayor David S. Gysberts, D- Hagerstown, MD
 Mayor Charlie Hales, D- Portland, OR
 Mayor Timothy Hanna, R- Appleton, WI
 Mayor Toni Harp, D- New Haven, CT
 Mayor Jim Ireton, D- Salisbury, MD
 Mayor Sly James, D- Kansas City, MO
 Mayor Emmett V. Jordan, D- Greenbelt, MD
 Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, R- Burnsville, MN
 Mayor William Kenoi, D- Hilo, HI
 Mayor Sara Kurovski, R- Pleasant Hill, IA
 Mayor Sam Kooiker, R- Rapid City, SD
 Mayor Mitchell Landrieu, D- New Orleans, LA
 Mayor Ed Lee, D- San Francisco, CA
 Mayor Sam Liccardo, D- San Jose, CA
 Mayor Jeff Longwell, R- Wichita, KS
 County Executive Ed Mangano, R- Nassau County, NY
 Mayor Nancy McFarlane, Not Affiliated- Raleigh, NC
 Mayor Lisa Merkel, D- Herndon, VA
 Mayor Jonathan Mitchell, D- New Bedford, MA
 Mayor Craig Moe, D- Laurel, MD
 Mayor Edward B. Murray, D- Seattle, WA
 Mayor Robert Palmieri, R- Utica, NY
 Mayor Salvatore Panto Jr, D- Easton, PA

Mayor William Peduto, D- Pittsburgh, PA
Mayor Donald Plusquellic, D- Akron, OH
Mayor McKinley Price, I- Newport News, VA
Mayor Harry Rilling, D- Norwalk, CT
Mayor Ron Rordam, I- Blacksburg, VA
Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, D- Tucson, AZ
Mayor Mary Casillas Salas, D- Chula Vista, CA
Mayor Marni Sawicki, D- Cape Coral, FL
Mayor Libby Schaaf, D- Oakland, CA
Mayor Helene Schneider, R- Santa Barbara, CA
Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, D- Hartford, CT
Mayor Will Sessoms, R- Virginia Beach, VA
Mayor Paul Soglin, D- Madison, WI
Mayor Mark Stodola- D, Little Rock, AK
Mayor Marty Walsh, D- Boston, MA
Mayor Setti Warren, D- Newton, MA
Mayor A C Wharton, D- Memphis, TN
Mayor Steve Williams, D- Huntington, WV
Mayor Diana Willits, R- Windsor Heights, IA

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are nearly 1400 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/usmayors, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/usmayors.

