



Refueling and Rebuilding America through Investment in Transportation

"We have the opportunity now to create jobs all across this country in all 50 states to repower America, to redesign how we use energy and think about how we are increasing efficiency to make our economy stronger, make us more safe, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and make us competitive for decades to come -- even as we save the planet."

- U.S. President-elect Barack Obama, 12-9-2008

The challenge is the economy; the opportunity is clean energy. Environment America recommends that President-elect Obama and the new Congress enact a green economic recovery plan that makes critical investments in clean energy and green infrastructure to help rebuild the American economy and protect our environment.

Putting America on the path to a new clean energy economy means more secure energy in the long term, less global warming pollution, fewer asthma attacks from air pollution, more clean lakes and rivers for drinking water, swimming and fishing, and more good jobs right here at home. By funding ready-to-go projects, we can put Americans to work in good jobs and deliver the economic boost the country needs.

Transportation investments are a key component of our nation's economic recovery and any comprehensive energy plan. **We recommend at least \$58.8 billion in investments in transit, other transportation alternatives, environmental mitigation, road and bridge maintenance, and vehicle and fuel technologies. These transportation investments will, over the next two years create 1.5 million new jobs and preserve 500,000 current jobs, and increase public transportation capacity by 10 percent annually.**

Transportation is responsible for one-third of global warming pollution and more than 60 percent of domestic oil consumption. To mitigate this, we need to build a transportation system that uses oil far more efficiently, takes advantage of alternative fuels, and shifts as much of our travel as possible from transportation modes that consume a lot of energy to those that consume little.

Bolstering public transportation should be a primary focus for stimulus investments to reduce global warming pollution and our nation's dependence on oil. Transit ridership has grown consistently over the past decade and has grown markedly in the recent year, despite falling fuel prices. Yet in 2008, 85 percent of transit systems were experiencing capacity problems and 65 percent lacked the revenue to increase service.

Our recommended investments would immediately reduce annual oil consumption by more than 300 million gallons (7.4 million barrels), reduce yearly global warming pollution by nearly 2 million tons, and prevent the contamination of 16 million cubic meters of water each year. These benefits would expand significantly over time as we rebuild and grow a sustainable transportation system.

We should not invest economic recovery dollars in new highways that contribute to sprawl and that would only increase oil consumption, global warming pollution, and traffic congestion in the long term. We should invest public dollars instead in places where we can fix existing infrastructure and environmental problems.

Combined with conscientious, anti-sprawl land use practices, drastically improved fuel economy, and the development of clean alternative energy, these investments will create quality jobs and jumpstart our nation's ability to significantly reduce global warming pollution, reducing transportation sector global warming pollution by 35 percent from current levels and reducing oil consumption by 3.5 million barrels a day by 2020, and by 2030 cutting our oil consumption in half.

Specific Transportation Investment Recommendations:

Fund New Starts transit projects to expand existing and construct new transit capacity. Ready-to-go projects across more than 50 transit systems throughout the nation will expand capacity and support ridership growth above 10% annually to meet growing demand.

- A \$30.5 billion investment over 2 years would create more than 1.2 million quality jobs in infrastructure and operations, and provide immediate benefits to reduce fuel consumption by nearly 100 million gallons and decrease global warming emissions by 1 million tons annually. Benefits would significantly accrue over time as transit ride share grows and commuters reduce passenger car miles.

Fund transit capital improvements, supplying vehicles and equipment to replace existing transit fleet with new, American-made buses and rail cars incorporating clean energy technology, and retrofit current fleet with global warming pollution-reducing components.

- A \$8.2 billion investment would create or sustain 300,000 jobs. Compared to the current fleet, improved transit assets would decrease diesel consumption by 200 million gallons and reduce global warming pollution by 500,000 tons annually.

Increase transit operating/energy assistance to sustain current and projected growth in ridership, mitigate rate increases and service cuts, and secure access to cleaner alternative fuels.

- A \$4 billion investment would preserve 140,000 current transit jobs, and ensure the ability of the existing public transportation save 1.4 billion gallons of fuel per year in direct use, an additional 350 million gallons through reduced congestion, and 37 million tons of global warming emissions.

Improve intercity travel and regional transit access by funding authorized Amtrak and state intercity rail corridor improvements.

- A \$1.85 billion investment would preserve 55,000 jobs and ensure access to commuter rail is maintained as an alternative to passenger car travel.

Fund approximately 450 ready-to-go bicycle and pedestrian connectivity projects, as well as fund the Complete Streets initiative to enable pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders to safely travel the existing road network.

- A \$1.7 billion investment in bicycle and pedestrian pathways would create an initial benefit of 1.2 million gallons of gasoline saved per year as well as an annual reduction of 12,000 tons global warming pollution.

Repair and rehabilitate existing roads and bridge infrastructure; focusing on existing road network discourages sprawl by enhancing existing land use patterns and create more jobs than new capacity projects.

- An \$8 billion investment would address critical road and bridge improvements and create or sustain 278,000 infrastructure jobs.

Fund anti-idling truck technology initiatives to provide rebates to truck operators to purchase anti-idling equipment, allowing drivers to power truck cabs without running the truck engine, as well as other equipment to improve energy efficiency .

- A \$315 million investment would create 1,000 new jobs, for a benefit of 24 million gallons of diesel saved in the first year plus a reduction of 263,000 tons global warming emissions.

Initiate stormwater mitigation projects to create green infrastructure and natural bioretention along roads and highways to reduce stormwater runoff (one of the largest sources of groundwater pollution).

- A \$232 million investment would create more than 3,000 jobs and prevent the contamination of 16 million cubic meters of groundwater – equivalent to three Lake Okeechobees.

Promote wildlife transit connectivity to protect and restore landscape connections across transportation infrastructure in wildlife habitats, reducing wildlife vehicle collisions and providing climate change adaptation and resiliency.

- A \$200 million investment would create or sustain 8,000 jobs, reduce wildlife collisions by 80-100 percent, prevent 160-200 auto fatalities and 23,200-29,000 injuries annually.

Provide loan guarantees for advanced technology vehicles and fuels, creating a domestic market for cellulosic ethanol, renewable hydrogen production, and improve fuel cell and battery technology.

- A \$4 billion investment would create a national infrastructure to supply clean alternative energy

These proposals will help clean up our air and water, reduce global warming pollution, and create much-needed jobs while making the economy more efficient in the long run. However, a plan as big and bold as this will be a target of the same powerful interests that have always opposed a new energy economy. For a cleaner, safer and stronger America, we call on President-elect Obama and the new Congress to keep it clean and pass a green recovery plan for a cleaner safer stronger America.

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