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## Advocacy Position Statement

### **Transportation Funding**

#### Statement of Purpose

The American Public Works Association (APWA) seeks to inform elected officials, transportation policy-makers and decision-makers at all levels of government and the public at-large of its stated position on Transportation Funding.

#### Statement of Position

APWA supports full funding of the nation's transportation infrastructure needs in order to improve its condition and performance and to efficiently maximize safety and economic benefits achievable through properly maintaining, modernizing, repairing and improving deteriorated or under funded transportation systems, as well as providing needed new infrastructure.

#### Background and Rationale

The quality and performance of all modes of the nation's transportation system is a major determinant of the public's quality of life and standard of living. A significant contributor to the economic welfare of every community, transportation accounts for about 11 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. Roads, bridges, public transit systems, rail, waterway and airport facilities form the foundation of a network which links rural areas with urban areas, city center with suburbs and small town with small town. The public relies on this extensive and diverse network everyday to gain access to jobs, markets, education, health care and recreation.

Inadequate funding of the capital and maintenance needs of the nation's transportation facilities, however, degrades their condition, safety and efficiency. The U.S. Department of Transportation, in its biennial report to Congress on the condition and performance of the nation's highways, bridges and transit, has documented that the nation is under investing in its surface transportation system. Continued increases in usage and travel at rates exceeding population growth, in addition to the advancing age of transportation infrastructure in general, are placing added stress on an over-burdened and under funded system. As the population grows, the need to provide a safer and more efficient transportation system grows, too.

#### Sponsor

Transportation Committee