NEWS RELEASE

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NACo urges congressional action on transportation funding crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) today urged Congress to act on key federal transportation legislation and funding – the reauthorization of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and a long-term solution for the Highway Trust Fund.

As major stakeholders in the nation’s transportation system, counties stand to lose billions of dollars and sustain countless setbacks unless Congress acts.

“The nation’s counties call on Congress to reauthorize a six-year surface transportation bill that shores up the Highway Trust Fund and provides local elected officials with more certainty,” said NACo Executive Director Matthew D. Chase. “Congressional inaction brings gridlock to local planning and stymies much-needed work on our nation’s roads and bridges. Not only does this present a threat to public safety, but it also significantly hinders economic development.”

“Counties across the country are doing what they can with limited resources,” Chase added. “We need our federal partners to step up and take action now.”

Counties play a critical role in the nation’s transportation system. They own and maintain the greatest share of the nation’s road miles, or 45 percent (compared to the 32 percent of public roads owned by cities and townships; 19 percent by states; and 3 percent by the federal government) and more than 230,000 bridges, or 39 percent. Counties are also stewards of more than a third of the nation’s transit systems and airports.

If Congress fails to act, MAP-21 will expire at the end of September; the Highway Trust Fund will hit a major fiscal cliff by August, resulting in a loss of nearly $10.5 billion in the next fiscal year for urban areas alone. The uncertainty around these federal transportation solutions can be crippling for counties’ long-term planning and progress on critical capital improvement projects. The loss or reduction of the federal investment in county- or municipal-owned highways and bridges would be a devastating blow, forcing postponement or cancellation of much-needed work.

For more information, visit http://www.naco.org/legislation/Pages/MAP21.aspx.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo assists America’s 3,069 counties in pursuing excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. More information at: www.naco.org