

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5051
Minority (202) 225-5074

July 9, 2009

The Honorable Raymond LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to request a meeting to discuss the Department of Transportation's (DOT) failure to provide Recovery Act funding to economically distressed areas. As you know, the Recovery Act specifically requires that economically distressed areas receive priority for transportation project funding.

However, in a hearing held yesterday by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) testified that many transportation projects have been selected for funding without regard to whether they are located in economically distressed areas.

In addition, Recovery Act funding is being spread too thinly, rather than being concentrated in distressed areas with the largest number of people. According to an analysis in the New York Times today, the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the country are getting less than half of the transportation stimulus money.

These problems are not insolvable – but they need urgent attention. I will call you shortly to arrange a meeting as soon as possible to discuss how we can work together to ensure that Recovery Act funding for transportation projects is focused on areas that are truly in economic distress.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns
Chairman