U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY 1999 BUDGET

OCTOBER 22, 1998

DOT'S FISCAL YEAR 1999 BUDGET: AFFIRMING PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PRIORITIES FOR AMERICA

The Fiscal Year 1999 budget which President Clinton signed yesterday affirms the key priorities which the President set forth in his State of the Union address and builds on the foundation created by TEA-21. The budget protects the surplus until Social Security is reformed and puts in place investments to improve education, protect the environment, and give us the new technologies and infrastructure we need to stay competitive in the 21st century. Among the President's biggest budget victories is $48 billion of fiscally-responsible transportation investment.

- ✔ ***Improving Safety:*** Record $3.1 billion for transportation safety programs, a 10 percent increase over last year. Includes $1.1 billion to fight drunk driving, increase seat belt use, and make highway-rail grade crossings safer. Also includes $800 million for aviation safety and $900 million for Coast Guard maritime safety.

- ✔ ***Improving Mobility:*** Fully funds TEA-21, with $37.7 billion in programs to improve mobility, 10 percent above last year's previous record. Includes $23.5 billion of highway investment, $5.2 billion for transit, $7.3 billion for aviation, and $609 million for Amtrak.

- ✔ ***Promoting Economic Growth and Trade:*** Funding for transportation programs that contribute to our nation's economic growth is almost doubled to a record $1 billion, including the new Access to Jobs program and initiatives to improve border crossings and spur private investment in transportation.

- ✔ ***Protecting Our Environment:*** Provides the record $3.3 billion President Clinton requested for programs to mitigate transportation's impact on the environment, a 23 percent increase over 1998. Includes almost $2 billion, a 33 percent increase, for highway environmental programs and $1 billion for Coast Guard marine environmental programs.

- ✔ ***Ensuring National Security:*** Record $1.6 billion for transportation programs that help protect national security, a 25 percent increase over last year. Includes $900 million to interdict illegal drugs and migrants and $400 million for aviation security.

IMPROVING SAFETY

The highway fatality rate is at a historic low under President Clinton's leadership and America's skies are the world's safest. The FY 1999 budget, with a record $3.1 billion for transportation safety, 10 percent higher than last year, will help us to continue this progress even as traffic increases.

- **Protecting Drivers and Passengers:** $1.1 billion, a 22 percent increase, for highway safety programs. Includes $74 million in incentive grants to promote seat belt and child safety seat use and $550 million for safety construction, including road hazard reduction and improved safety at rail-highway grade crossings.

- **Fighting Drunk Driving:** $60 million incentive program to encourage states to adopt tough 0.08 blood alcohol concentration standards for drunk driving.

- **Making Trucks Safer:** $160 million for the motor carrier safety program, which ensures that trucks and truckers are safe.

- **Keeping our Skies Safe:** Almost $800 million to continue FAA safety programs. Includes funding for the Safer Skies effort, which will target resources on the most common causes of fatal accidents to reduce them by 80 percent.

- **Improving Maritime Safety:** Over $900 million for Coast Guard search and rescue, marine safety, and boating safety programs which save a life every two hours.

- **Enhancing Rail Safety:** Almost $100 million for rail safety, including research.

- **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety:** Over $60 million, a 12 percent increase, for RSPA safety programs. Includes $25 million for hazardous materials safety, $10 million for emergency preparedness grants to states, and $30 million for pipeline safety.

IMPROVING MOBILITY

President Clinton has made good on his pledge to rebuild America: the conditions and performance of our transportation system have been steadily improving. The FY 1999 budget furthers the President's legacy of rebuilding America by providing record, balanced transportation investment.

- **Record-Setting Investment:** $37.7 billion of investment to improve mobility, 10 percent above last year's previous record, while protecting our commitment to a balanced budget and to President Clinton's other vital priorities, such as education, child care, and Social Security.

- **Expanding Highway Programs:** Expands core highway and bridge programs, fully funding TEA-21's levels with an 11 percent increase to $23.5 billion.

- **Investing in Transit:** Balanced investment, with more than $5.2 billion, a 9 percent raise, for transit programs.

- **Meeting the Demand for Air Travel:** More than $7.3 billion for aviation, including air traffic operations, capital improvements, and research, and more than $1.9 billion for airport improvement grants.

- **Revitalizing Passenger Rail:** Almost $700 million, an 11 percent increase, for rail mobility. This includes $609 million for Amtrak capital grants, $38 million for the Alaska Railroad, and $20 million for next-generation high-speed rail.

- **Supporting Maritime Services:** Almost $650 million, a 9 percent increase, for the Coast Guard to operate and recapitalize the maritime aids to navigation system and to alter bridges that could be hazardous to ships.

- **Ensuring Essential Air Services:** $50 million for the Essential Air Service program, to help ensure continued service to small heartland communities.

- **Giving Decision-makers Sound Data:** Provides $31 million to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, which collects and analyzes data so businesses and government agencies can make sound investment and operating decisions.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE

Under President Clinton's leadership, America is once again the most economically-competitive nation in the world, and this is due in great measure to our transportation system's low costs and reliability. In an increasingly-global economy, keeping transportation efficient is crucial to our continued competitiveness.

- **Promoting Prosperity:** Transportation access can mean the difference between poverty and prosperity. Funding for transportation programs that directly contribute to our nation's economic growth is almost doubled to $1 billion.

- **Improving Highway Access:** Over $750 million, a 134 percent increase, for highway investment directly targeted at improving economic growth. This includes over $500 million for Appalachian highway development; almost $130 million for a new program to support trade and improve security at border crossings; and over $70 million for a new credit assistance program aimed at spurring greater private investment in transportation.

- **Expanding Transit Access:** The budget includes $75 million for the new Access to Jobs program, which funds transportation alternatives for those making the transition from welfare to work. This is 50 percent higher than the amount originally included in the Congressional budgets.

- **Supporting St. Lawrence Seaway Trade:** Includes $11.5 million for the operations of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

The quality of our nation's environment continues to improve under President Clinton's stewardship. The FY 1999 budget reaffirms the President's commitment to protecting and enhancing our environment.

- **Continuing our Commitment to the Environment:** The budget provides the $3.3 billion that President Clinton requested for programs to mitigate transportation's impact on the environment, a 23 percent increase over 1998.

- **Strengthening Highway Environmental Programs:** Almost $2 billion, a 33 percent increase, is slated for highway environmental programs. This includes TEA-21's substantial increases for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program and for transportation enhancements.

- **Protecting the Marine Environment:** Almost $1 billion for Coast Guard marine environmental and fisheries protection programs.

- **Making Buses Cleaner:** $50 million to buy or lease buses using low-polluting fuels.

ENSURING NATIONAL SECURITY

Nothing is more important than giving the American people the protection they need, and there are few areas in which this job is more challenging than in our transportation system, with its openness and its vast scope. The FY 1999 budget dramatically expands programs to protect our national security.

- **Providing Record Investment in Security:** A record $1.6 billion is budgeted for transportation programs that help protect our national security, a 25 percent increase over last year.

- **Supporting the Coast Guard:** More than $1 billion, a 31 percent increase, for Coast Guard national security operations and capital acquisition. This includes more than $900 million to interdict illegal drugs and migrants, and almost $80 million for defense readiness.

- **Enhancing Aviation Security:** An increase to $400 million for aviation security, including more than $100 million for civil aviation security operations, more than $100 million for airport grants, $100 million for explosive detection systems, and over $50 million for research.

- **Ensuring Sealift Capacity:** $90 million for the Maritime Security Program, to help ensure that the U.S. has the sealift capacity necessary to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies.