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| **President Obama Addresses Infrastructure in State of the Union**  Last night, President Obama addressed the need for increased investment in our nation’s infrastructure in his State of the Union address. His [proposal](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/130213_govdoc4219362.pdf), (see p. 3 of document) calls for $50 billion in federal spending for transportation and other infrastructure projects, with $40 billion of that going towards a "Fix It First" program which focuses on structurally deficient transportation projects such as crumbling roadways and bridges. The President also offered a long-term increase in surface transportation and rail funding, paid for by reduced spending on Iraq and Afghanistan. The President called this "a major commitment to nation building here at home." There is also a proposal to bring private investment into infrastructure under the "Partnership to Rebuild America."  This program, though not fully outlined, could include both planks of our Board approved America Fast Forward program (TIFIA Loans and America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds).  Our federal advocates will continue to work closely with the Administration and both the U.S. House and Senate on robust and innovative transportation funding and financing.  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/130213_govdoc4219362.pdf>  **U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Holds Hearing on The Federal Role in Transportation**  This morning, the U.S. House of Representative's Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA), convened a hearing on the Federal Role in Transportation. Among those testifying were former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, a Democrat who now chairs the Building America’s Future coalition and U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Thomas J. Donohue. The Chamber President shared that “There’s been a longstanding federal role in infrastructure, and that must continue.”  The hearing was marked by its bipartisan nature, where both Republicans and Democrats agreed that the federal government must continue to play a strong and decisive role on transportation issues. The live webcast of the hearing can be found [here](http://mfile.akamai.com/65785/live/reflector:40333.asx?bkup=40341&prop=n).  <http://mfile.akamai.com/65785/live/reflector:40333.asx?bkup=40341&prop=n>.  **U.S. Chamber of Commerce Holds "Let's Rebuild America" Transportation Infrastructure Summit**  Today, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce held an all-day summit on rebuilding America's transportation infrastructure. The [program](http://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/issues/130211%20-%20LRA%20Summit%202013%20Program.pdf) included a wide variety of issues of importance to our agency, including "A Fresh Look at the Federal Role -- Do we need Washington in Transportation?", and "It Takes Two -- How to Make Private Investment in Public Transportation a Reality.”  Our federal advocates are attending the summit and meeting with key stakeholders to advance Metro's Board approved federal legislative agenda.  <http://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/issues/130211%20-%20LRA%20Summit%202013%20Program.pdf> |
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