

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

**Gil Carmichael Says Administration's
Intercity High-Speed Rail Program Is Right on Track**

- HSR Will Provide Economic Stability, Create a New National Transportation Infrastructure -

DENVER, CO, February 2, 2010 – In an address to the Second Annual Intercity High Speed Rail Corridor Summit, held in Birmingham, Alabama, Gil Carmichael stated that the Administration's high-speed rail program is taking an epic first step toward building "Interstate 2.0" for future generations. Carmichael is the Founding Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Intermodal Transportation Institute at the University of Denver, a former Federal Railroad Administrator, and the former Chairman of the Amtrak Reform Council.

Speaking to a large group of state transportation officials from Georgia and Alabama and rail industry agencies, gathered to focus on policies for the development of major, high-speed rail corridors, Carmichael told the group that one of the largest public-works projects in the nation in the 1950s was President Eisenhower's 43,000-mile, Interstate Highway Program. "With his recent announcements to fund an initial \$8 billion for building 13 intercity, high-speed rail corridors, President Obama will become the Eisenhower of this century. What the president envisions is a major public-works project that will connect all of our airports, center cities, and ports. This new transportation system will employ millions of people, provide long-term economic growth, and create an ethical, energy-efficient, 21st century, transportation network. It will literally be 'Interstate 2.0!'"

Carmichael also congratulated the Federal Railroad Administration for initiating a very comprehensive group of railroad projects that will get underway immediately. "It took 40 years to build the Interstate Highway System, a successful transportation network that is now congested and in need of repair," he said. "With a reinvestment in our intermodal railroad industry, we can build 30,000 miles of high-speed, intercity, grade-separated tracks in 20 years without disrupting our green lands, as 240,000 miles of railway Rights-of-Way (ROW) are already in place and paid for."

Carmichael pointed out that "this existing rail network touches most of our key airports ... and with this new vision by the president, it can connect major cities across the country, solving our need for a new national transportation system while re-energizing our inner cities. If we fund it as we did the highways, with public/private partnerships working with the state Departments of Transportation, we can dramatically and safely increase transit speeds, add jobs and increase freight capacity.

"Further complementing the building of 'Interstate 2.0' and the high-speed rail program is the Amtrak Board's decision to replace its entire fleet of train sets," said Carmichael. "The high-speed rail corridor program, in concert with the replacement of the Amtrak fleet, will jump start the manufacturing of passenger trains and locomotives in the United States, adding thousands of jobs immediately and many more in the long-term. These new train sets can be up and running within 36-48 months and provide safe and long overdue passenger trains capable of achieving speeds in excess of 110 miles per hour by 2030. This program will also greatly add to our freight capacity," he said.

Carmichael has been outspoken in promoting the concept of a new, intermodal, transportation system for years. In numerous speeches since 1994, Carmichael has defined his vision of "Interstate 2.0" as an ethical, seamless, and integrated transportation system for moving people and goods that:

- Will be more safe and secure;
- Will be more environmentally benign;
- Will be more efficient; and,
- Will be more economical.

"This new enhancement to our transportation infrastructure will utilize the strengths of each transportation mode," summarized Carmichael. "We must build a 21st century, intermodal, transportation system using the 'steel wheel and steel rail' as the fundamental element of this system. In addition, we can electrify all of the North American rail system early in this century, providing a new source of energy for our transportation system. The president has started phase one of achieving his vision of a new, intercity, high-speed rail, transportation system. It needs a formal name, like the Eisenhower Interstate Highway System. President Obama's 'Interstate 2.0' suits it fine," said Carmichael.

About ITI

The Intermodal Transportation Institute at the University of Denver offers an Executive Masters Program that awards a Master of Science in Intermodal Transportation Management from the University of Denver. This graduate degree program prepares transportation industry managers for the increasingly complex, global business environment where knowledge of finance, quantitative processes, supply chain, transportation law, and public policy issues as well as freight, passenger, and intermodal transportation operational strategies are critical management tools for success. For more information on the ITI Executive Masters Program call: 303-871-4702 or visit: www.du.edu/transportation.

EDITORIAL CONTACTS:

Jim Martin
JDM & Associates
jjim@jdmandassociates.com
847-570-9100

Cathy Johnson
ITI Executive Director
Intermodal Transportation Institute
University of Denver
catjohn@du.edu
303-871-4702

###