

**ITI SAYS TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE RECEIVING MORE ATTENTION**

*- Recent Interim Report by National Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission  
Signals Increased Interest in Intermodal Sector -*

**DENVER, CO, February 25, 2008** – While there continues to be widespread and indecisive wrangling over the policies and financing of the U.S. transportation infrastructure on Capitol Hill, there are some indications that a few policymakers are finally beginning to recognize the critical need for a strong intermodal transportation system throughout the nation.

Most recently, an interim report released by the National Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission and comments by two presidential candidates have acknowledged the need for a transportation agenda that addresses the nation's 21<sup>st</sup> infrastructure crisis according to Craig Lentzsch, Vice Chairman of the American Bus Association, and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Intermodal Transportation Institute (ITI) at the University of Denver. "I am very pleased that the Commission recognized that our national infrastructure is in a physical and financial crisis, and delighted that its interim report clearly identified intermodal connectors as an important element in solving the nation's surface transportation problems," said Lentzsch, who also serves on the Financing Commission.

"The Commission made several important observations in its preliminary report that identifies infrastructure improvements as a national priority," he continued. "The report concluded that the country's transportation system requires a significant infusion of capital to upgrade and better maintain the nation's highways, transit systems and intermodal facilities in order to keep up with population growth and what is now a vastly growing global economy. The commission recognized that we can no longer rely on our inefficient, congested Interstate Highway System to meet consumer demand. It also rightly pointed out that we must seek alternatives to the federal fuel tax as a principal source of funding for our transportation system, as rising fuel costs will dictate alternative approaches to funding mechanisms."

Lentzsch pointed out that the Commission's interim report acknowledged the need for an interconnected intermodal network for the U.S. transportation infrastructure and clearly addressed the immediate need for a more intelligent approach for federal government investment in and operation of our nation's transportation system. Lentzsch stated that it will be important to completely reassess our current, complex and tax-based approach to funding our surface transportation infrastructure.

Lentzsch emphasized that the tasks laid out in the Commission’s interim report will require an entirely new mindset on the part of policymakers that to date, many in local, state and federal government agencies, have been reluctant to accept. “The kind of innovative thinking addressed by the National Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission and long promoted by ITI requires an understanding that our traditional transportation system is not working and an acknowledgment on Capitol Hill that we need coordination among modes – and proper funding of an intermodal system – if we are going to serve not only our national transportation demands, but compete in a global economy.”

**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, 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](http://www.du.edu/transportation).

For a copy of the Commission interim report, click here:

<http://financecommission.dot.gov/Documents/Interim%20Report%20-%20The%20Path%20Forward.pdf>

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