



September 30, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your plan for investing in infrastructure. As a fellow Chicagoan I know you understand our infrastructure challenges and welcome your leadership in helping to bring Congress together to pass a plan that can put Americans back to work while modernizing and upgrading our transportation network.

Though critical to all of us on a daily basis, transportation and infrastructure keeps getting pushed to the back burner. Your clear statement could provide the spark needed for the nation to recognize and for Congress to act on these important investments.

Your initiative for infrastructure will boost the economy while also kick-starting the long-delayed transformation of the nation's outdated surface transportation program, which expired one year ago this month.

While "front-loading" a new transportation authorization with increased investment will put many thousands of Americans to work over the next couple of years, we recognize that this is not just a mere short-term stimulus. This kind of aggressive, multi-year construction and rehabilitation effort is fundamental to the long-term health of our economy. The alternative is gridlocked cities, stranded rural residents, hampered freight delivery, and continued over-reliance on increasingly hard-to-get oil supplies.

We are most encouraged that your Administration has recognized that the earmark-driven, unaccountable spending of the past must end. Americans are unwilling to increase the amount of funding for transportation if the money goes into the same broken, unaccountable system.

We applaud your plea for carefully targeted investments in projects that compete best in satisfying clearly articulated national goals for energy security, safety, affordability, environmental sustainability and economic competitiveness.

We support your broadly stated goals, and we look forward in coming weeks to more details on how the Administration will fulfill this promise for reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MarySue".

MarySue Barrett
President