



TRIP/Canada

THE ROAD & INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM OF CANADA
“A Special Committee of the Canadian Construction Association”

TRIP CANADA WELCOMES COUNCIL OF DEPUTY TRANSPORT MINISTERS REPORT DEMONSTRATING MASSIVE SHORTFALL IN URBAN TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT

February 16, 2005

OTTAWA – The Road and Infrastructure Program of Canada (TRIP Canada) today welcomed the release of a report by the Council of Deputy Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety entitled “Urban Transportation in Canada: Needs and Opportunities”. The report examines the needs of Canada’s urban transportation system, and makes several recommendations regarding the need for federal leadership and commitment to long-term, predictable investment in urban transportation.

Of particular interest was a survey conducted among provinces and territories regarding their ten-year needs for urban transportation. According to the survey, which included data from ten of the thirteen provincial / territorial jurisdictions, mass transit investment needs over the coming decade were estimated at approximately \$22 billion. However, when asked specifically about road, highway and bridge investment needs, the ten-year figure was estimated to be \$66 billion. In short, expected road and highway investment needs will be approximately 3 times as great as mass transit needs over the coming decade.

“Today’s report by federal, provincial and territorial Deputy Ministers of Transport presents a very sobering picture to all levels of government”, stated Lloyd Ferguson, Chairman of The Road and Infrastructure Program of Canada. “This report makes clear that governments and other stakeholders need to devise long-term investment strategies to address the needs of our aging transportation infrastructure”, he added.

“Although this report points to the needs in the mass transit sector – and those needs are great – it also demonstrates that Canada’s roads and highways are in need of far greater attention,” stated Jeff Morrison, Executive Director of TRIP Canada. “While governments at all levels are talking about their intentions to direct gas tax and other municipal funds into mass transit, this report stresses that with funding needs three times as great, roads and highways have to be an essential element of the urban transportation funding mix”.

A copy of “Urban Transportation in Canada: Needs and Opportunities” can be downloaded from the website of the Council of Deputy Ministers for Transportation at www.comt.ca.

TRIP Canada is a Special Committee of the Canadian Construction Association. It is comprised of ten provincial roadbuilder and heavy construction associations, as well as the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association.

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