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RPA STATEMENT ON FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FINANCING RECOMMENDATIONS

(New York, NY) – Regional Plan Association – the nation’s oldest independent metropolitan policy group – today released the following statement:

Today members of the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission and the National Transportation Policy Project of the Bipartisan Policy Center released a [joint statement](#) outlining key principles for how to “extend, fund and improve the federal surface transportation program in the context of dire fiscal realities of our nation.”

Regional Plan Association strongly supports the eight principles outlined in the Joint Statement, which include:

- 1- Retooling federal surface transportation programs to be more performance driven;
- 2- Broad investment in transportation by all levels of government, and the private sector;
- 3- Heavier reliance on user-fee based systems;
- 4- Incentives established to encourage state and local user-fee systems to be established;
- 5- User-fees based on Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT);
- 6- Increasing the federal gas tax;
- 7- Use of public-private partnerships as financing mix, not as substitutes for revenue;
- 8- Reduction of project delivery time.

“Financing our transportation needs is of utmost importance to the well-being of the country,” said Bob Yaro, president, Regional Plan Association. “Without a viable plan for continued investment in and maintenance of our nation’s railways, roadways and public transit systems, we will lose our global competitive advantage, risk our high standard of living and quality of life and undermine the foundation of our economy. RPA strongly applauds the principles in the Joint Statement and look forward to working with Commission members and the Bipartisan Policy Center to achieve the objectives outlined.”