



The United States Conference of Mayors

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THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOM COCHRAN CALLS FOR A MAINSTREET STIMULUS PLAN TO CREATE JOBS, SPUR NATIONAL ECONOMY

Washington, D.C. – “Mayors have been saying all along that the job situation is dire and only getting worse. Today’s unemployment numbers indicate a rapid deterioration in the job outlook for Americans; and thousands more jobs will possibly be lost before President-Elect Obama takes office in January. The bottom line is Main Street is hurting. Americans need jobs now and our economy desperately needs help at the Main Street level.

“If we are going to reverse the current economic situation and create jobs, the only way to do so is to invest in Main Street, metropolitan economies, which comprise 90% of our gross domestic product. Simply put, until we stimulate local economies, the national economy will continue to suffer, and we will not begin to see light at the end of this gloomy tunnel.

“Last week, the nation’s mayors called for a MainStreet Job and Infrastructure Stimulus plan totaling \$89.8 billion that includes funding in the areas of transit and roads, green jobs, school modernization, and community development (plus unemployment benefits, Medicaid, food stamps and other measures). The mayors presented this plan in testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

“In light of today’s report, the nation’s mayors are renewing their call for Congress to act quickly on a ‘MainStreet Stimulus’ bill that would immediately put Americans back to work on infrastructure projects that provide short and long-term benefits to our struggling economy. Cities are ‘ready-to-go’ with transit, energy-efficiency and community development infrastructure projects that will immediately employ people, support small businesses, and stimulate mainstreet economies.

“Mayors are confronted everyday by city residents about the economy and how it is impacting their jobs, their long-term savings, their mortgages and their pension funds. Further, severe state and local cutbacks are resulting in a loss of significant services on Main Street.

“We cannot wait for the new President and a new Congress to take office. This crisis is happening now and stimulus funding for infrastructure projects can rapidly be spent by directly funding cities and counties, so that work can begin NOW. “

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