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**Statement of Terry O'Sullivan,  
General President of LIUNA  
On the Critical Need to Invest in America's Transportation System**

***"It's time to build America, so America works"***

**Washington, D.C. (February 26, 2009)** – The report released by the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission and the model proposed by Representative Earl Blumenauer are important steps to build America.

We have long called for a national plan to build America, so America works. In a new era of responsibility, it is critical that we boldly face America's problems and solve them with vision and innovation.

America's transportation system is overcrowded, outdated and crumbling. For too long we have neglected the basics of our country and today the funding gap between resources and our transportation needs is massive and growing.

In order to build the transportation network Americans deserve, we are going to have to pay for it and all options must be on the table. The current gas tax model has proven neither sufficient nor sustainable. America needs a dedicated source of funding for transportation that meets our growing needs, provides a good value to taxpayers and is fair to the working people who rely on our roads and mass transit every day.

We commend the Commission and Representative Blumenauer for advancing the discussion and providing a path to move forward.

Tackling a problem of such magnitude will require many tough choices and lot of debate but it's a problem we can no longer afford to ignore. Failing to build America's transportation system hurts our economy, wastes time and money, diminishes quality of life and costs lives. But building America provides the opportunity to create millions of jobs, lays the foundation for new economic prosperity and leaves behind a lasting legacy for generations to come. It's time to build America, so America works.

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*The members of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of workers who are proud to build America. To learn more about LIUNA's Build America, so America Works - a long-term effort to make taking care of America's basics a national priority - go to [www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org](http://www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org).*