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Statement of the Laborers' International Union of North America On the Recommendations of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission

Washington, D.C. (January 15, 2008) –Today's release of the Commission's comprehensive action plan puts America one step closer to modernizing its surface transportation system.

Across the country, the unmet needs of our surface transportation system continue to outpace existing revenues. Our nation's ability to compete effectively in the global economy and improve the quality of life for all Americans is severely undermined by the fundamental need to upgrade investment in our transportation infrastructure.

The Laborers' are pleased that a majority of the Commissioners understand the need to maintain a vital federal role in transportation infrastructure investment by continuing to fund the Highway Trust Fund. While we agree that all alternative revenue raising options should be considered, they should not supplant direct federal funding. Enhanced continued revenues for the Highway Trust Fund are needed to guarantee that "real money" is available to help rebuild America, compete in a global economy and create family wage sustaining jobs for working men and women.

This is a very critical time in our nation's history; one in which we need vision and focused leadership to help us meet the many challenges we face to rebuild America. We applaud the effort and hard work of the Commissioners and we look forward to taking the blueprint they have provided and working with Congress to implement policies that will rebuild America's transportation system and stimulate the nation's economy through job creation.

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The half-million members of LIUNA are on the forefront of the construction industry – a sector that is a powerhouse of 10 million workers who produce 5 percent of the nation's economic output.