



April 2, 2007



Senator Thomas Rielly
304 N 8th Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Dear Senator Rielly:

City leaders across Iowa are fully aware of the importance of transportation, including good roads and streets, to the economic vitality of our communities and our state. City officials know that the current investment Iowa is making toward our roads and streets is significantly less than the amount needed merely to maintain existing roads and streets. Let alone investing in improvements to keep Iowa competitive.

The Iowa League of Cities was gratified that the Iowa Department of Transportation's (IDOT) report, commissioned by the legislature, confirmed the financial predicament of Iowa's road and street system. We applaud the Department for proposing the Transportation Investment Moves the Economy in the 21st Century (TIME 21) Fund and urge its adoption. In particular, we think the proposal balances urban and rural interests, and targets scarce public resources toward our greatest needs.

We acknowledge that identifying sufficient resources for the TIME 21 fund is a challenge, but it a challenge we must face. Iowa has not increased the gasoline tax in almost two decades. Other states are approving plans making major investments in their road systems. Iowa highways and roads have been an asset for economic development, but that will not continue to be the case if adequate investment is not made.

The League also recognizes that your leadership has played a crucial role in bringing this issue forward. On behalf of the nearly eighty percent of Iowans who live in our cities and depend on our streets to work and to go about their lives, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Dee Vanderhoef, President
Council Member of Iowa City

Jim Fausett, President-elect
Mayor of Coralville

John Mardis, Past President
Mayor of Evansdale