

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stakeholders urged to express concerns about highway funding

Kansas Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller is asking for help to stave off a looming transportation funding crisis facing both Kansas and the nation.

In letters mailed June 20, Miller urged 125 Kansas transportation stakeholders to contact the state's Congressional delegation to express concern and a desire for prompt action to address a potential reduction in funding to Kansas and all other states.

Congress has yet to pass legislation that addresses the shortfall in the federal Highway Trust Fund, from which money is dispersed to states. Action is needed before October to prevent a more than 30 percent cut in federal highway funds from affecting both state and local transportation projects. The cut would reduce funding to Kansas by nearly \$120 million.

"I am becoming increasingly worried that time and reasonable options to fix the problem are quickly running out," said Miller.

Sens. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, have proposed a one-time transfer of funds to the Highway Trust Fund to prevent the loss of federal funds to states. An attempt to include their language in the Aviation Authorization bill failed.

"There are only a few applicable bills during the remainder of this Congressional session that could be used as vehicles to insure that federal highway funds won't be cut," Miller said.

"I can't state this too strongly – Congressional action is needed soon."

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700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice) (TTY).