NAM: Surface Roadblocks Costing Manufacturers Billions

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WASHINGTON – **National Association of Manufacturers**' president and CEO John Engler called this week's National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commissions' recommendations for funding the nation's infrastructure network an "excellent platform to begin discussing how to improve the U.S. transportation system."

After nearly two years of nationwide hearings, the 12-member commission issued the report analyzing the needs of U.S. surface infrastructure over the next 30 years. The report offered recommendations to address urban congestion, rural access, project delivery and freight needs.

"Modernizing our nation's infrastructure system is a top priority of manufacturers," Engler said. "We depend on the ability to move goods throughout the country efficiently yet face transportation bottlenecks that cost industry nearly \$8 billion a year.

"The commission reached a consensus on the clear need to increase investment in our nation's transportation system to lessen these bottlenecks," he said. "While there are bound to be differences among commissioners over the level or source of funding, these differences do not diminish the compelling case for additional investment."

Congress will begin discussing reauthorizing funding for the surface transportation program this week with Chairman James Oberstar's (D-MN) hearing on this report in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

"Congress should look at mix of investment sources from all levels of government – federal and state – as well as public-private partnerships," Engler said. "The time is now to work together to find a solution to this complex problem," he said. "The U.S. will soon be facing a competitive disadvantage if we don't develop a national plan to improve the quality of our infrastructure system like our international trading partners."

The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission's recommendations are available at transportationfortomorrow.org.