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November 9, 2015

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## **MAYOR WHARTON JOINS COALITION OF 73 BIPARTISAN MAYORS URGING INCREASED TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT IN U.S. CITIES**

### ***Failure to Increase Infrastructure Investment Led to Nearly \$900 Billion State-of-Good Repair Backlog, D+ Infrastructure Rating – and More Deficient Bridges than McDonald's***

**MEMPHIS, TN** – As Congress debates the transportation reauthorization bill, Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. joined a coalition of 73 bipartisan mayors from across the country urging federal investment in cities' transportation and infrastructure needs, and a multi-year bill that increases funding for vital infrastructure, such as buses, streets, bridges, rail, and ferries.

Since 2009, federal infrastructure funding has remained stagnant -- with major consequences. Today, the U.S. has a D+ infrastructure rating; it's fallen from first in the world when it comes to economic competitiveness to twelfth; and the country has more deficient bridges than it does McDonald's restaurants. In fact, the United States is spending a 20-year low of 1.7% of its GDP on infrastructure -- while China spends 9%.

In a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, the mayors highlighted these continued risks to national productivity and competitiveness posed by a failure to increase investment.

"Congestion costs the U.S. economy over \$120 billion each year. Since the last long-term surface transportation bill was enacted in 2005, the economic competitiveness of U.S. transportation infrastructure has fallen from first in the world to 12th. If the status quo continues, deficient transportation infrastructure will cost American businesses \$430 billion by 2020," the mayors wrote.

"Our nation's urban areas house more than 80 percent of our nation's residents, and if we are to thrive, Congress must step up and make investments in our cities, towns, and suburbs."

Increased investment would help cities around the country address the nearly \$900 billion highway, bridges, and transit state-of-good-repair backlog and bring the United States more in line with its international competitors.

For example, \$137 million in additional funding for projects around Memphis could support the following projects:

- \$20 million -- replacement of three overhead bridges at Shleby, 1-240: Norfolk Southern RR , and two on Poplar Ave.
- \$81 million -- Raines Road/ Perkins Road Interchange to Getwell Road
- \$36 million – paving Germantown Road to east of Canada Road