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**Statement by CMAA President Bruce D'Agostino
On Proposed FY 2009 Federal Budget**

The administration's FY 2009 budget proposal makes severe across-the-board cuts in all too many areas in which our national policy ought to be to increase investment and improve infrastructure as the foundation for a prosperous future. In particular, the administration proposes to fund both highways and transit systems well below the levels authorized in SAFETEA-LU, a milestone piece of legislation that CMAA strongly supported.

We have become familiar with the litany of infrastructure challenges facing us, from obsolescent water and sewer systems to deficient highway bridges and inefficient air traffic control.

In all of these areas, significant new funds, well spent, would produce the twofold benefit of improving our infrastructure *and* creating an immediate surge in well-paid employment. Instead, the administration has chosen to reduce capital construction budgets for such agencies as the Department of Transportation, the General Services Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Veterans Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency, among others.

Deferring needed work in order to avoid short-term expenditures is one of the practices that have led to our current infrastructure crisis. The proper course now is not to retreat further but to engage constructively with the future.

We call upon the president and Congress to join in adopting a properly farsighted approach to infrastructure investment, and to fund these critical activities at effective and needed levels.

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About CMAA

CMAA is North America's only organization dedicated exclusively to the

interests of the professional construction and program management industry. On behalf of its twenty-five regional chapters and more than 4,700 public and private firms and individuals throughout the nation, CMAA promotes the construction management industry and provides professional resources, advocacy, professional development, certification, and business opportunities to its members. CMAA's national headquarters is located in McLean, Virginia and the Association's website is www.cmaanet.org.

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