

# **FACT SHEET:**

## **Bush Budget Undermines America's Roads, Rail, and Other Transportation Needs**

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Even as middle-class Americans are struggling to achieve financial security, the Bush budget ignores the very real challenges they are facing. It fails to create jobs, and instead creates record deficits. It shortchanges education, health care, veterans' benefits, small business, and the environment. Instead of helping working families, it provides additional tax breaks for those who need them least, and provides billions of dollars in new giveaways to HMOs and other wealthy corporate interests.

**Shortchanges highway and transit spending.** The Bush budget provides only \$256 billion for highways and transit over six years – far less than the \$375 billion bipartisan House bill currently pending before Congress. The President's budget does not increase funding for highways and transit over the next five years, even though congestion costs the U.S. economy \$69.5 billion a year in 75 cities alone. The average cost of congestion for peak-period commuters is \$1,160 a year in these cities, and the American worker loses more than a week and a half of productivity annually by sitting in traffic.

**Freezes funding for transit infrastructure.** The Bush Administration freezes funding for the Federal Transit Administration, providing far less than is needed to address our transit infrastructure needs, including buses, subways, and commuter rail.

**Cuts funding to modernize the Air Traffic Control system by \$393 million.** The President's budget cuts funding for modernizing the air traffic system by \$393 million, thus reducing efforts to increase the capacity of the air traffic system to meet the growing needs and improve our air traffic control system. Overall, the President's budget freezes funding for the Federal Aviation Administration – money that is desperately needed to provide safe air travel and desperately needed improvements.

**Cuts funding for the Essential Air Service Program in half.** The President's budget cuts \$52 million from the Essential Air Service program, which is designed to keep air service available to small, remote communities.

**Cuts funding for Amtrak.** The President's budget proposes \$300 million less for Amtrak in 2005, despite the funding needed to pay for repairs, upgrades, and operating costs. Amtrak served more than 24 million passengers last year, and this 25 percent cut could result in the elimination of all Amtrak service.

**Democrats have a better way.** The bipartisan House highway bill would create and sustain 1.7 million new jobs while working to improve the one-third of America's roads, bridges, transit vehicles and facilities that are in poor condition.

