



# Durbin discusses Illinois infrastructure investment with Illinois coalition

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– In a meeting with the [Transportation for Illinois Coalition](#), U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) today discussed the importance of strong, continued investment in Illinois infrastructure from roads, highways and bridges to airports locks and dams.

**“Our ability to keep growing our economy depends on a strong, well-maintained infrastructure that moves people and goods across the country safely and efficiently,” said Durbin. “Strong federal investment in job-creating projects aimed at repairing and upgrading America’s highways, bridges, airports, rails and ports should be a bipartisan priority. With a long-term transportation bill last year, we’ve committed to improving our highway system, but we need to do more. We must approve a reauthorization of our nation’s water infrastructure projects and the Federal Aviation Administration before the end of the year.”**

Late last year, Congress passed a long-term transportation bill – the *Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* – which was signed into law by the President. The FAST Act authorizes and funds transportation programs for the next 5 years. Durbin – who was a member of the Conference Committee tasked with finding a compromise between the House and Senate versions of the transportation bill – said that the FAST Act will provide the certainty that businesses and state governments, like Illinois, need to plan critical infrastructure projects, create good-paying jobs and support Illinois businesses. Additional information on Illinois transportation priorities included in the *FAST Act* can be found on Senator Durbin’s [WEBSITE](#).

Last month, the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The legislation – which will strengthen U.S. airport security and improve air travel – includes funding for important Illinois programs including: Essential Air Service program, contract towers, and airport improvement. The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives for approval. Additional

information on the reauthorization bill can be found [HERE](#). Finally, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed a reauthorization of America's water infrastructure projects called the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016*. The bill must now be considered on the Senate floor.