REPORT

DATE: May 4, 2006

TO: Regional Council and Transportation and Communications Committee

FROM: Don Rhodes (x840)

SUBJECT: S.2388 – National Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2006

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL: Hasan Ikhrata for MP

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Support S.2388 and the establishment of the ''National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States''.

SUMMARY:
This bill establishes a National Commission on Infrastructure of the United States. The commission is authorized to ensure that the infrastructure of the Untied States meets current and future demand and facilitates economic growth. Its members will be appointed by the President and by Congress (there will be seven members in total).

Further there will be established a Cabinet level advisory group, also including representatives of the National Governors Association, the National Association of Counties, the United States Conference of Mayors and the National Conference of State Legislators to provide assistance and advice on request of the Commission.

The Commission is tasked to conduct a study including:

- the capacity of infrastructure improvements to sustain current and anticipated economic development and competitiveness
- the age and condition of public infrastructure (including congestion and changes in
- the condition of that infrastructure as compared with preceding years);
- the methods used to finance public works improvements (including general obligation bonds, tax-credit bonds, revenue bonds, user fees, excise taxes, direct governmental assistance, and private investment);
- any trends or innovations in transportation finance;
- investment requirements necessary to maintain the current condition and performance and the investment needed to improve those facilities in the future;
- the projected share of Federal, State, local, and other government levels
- the projected expenditure on infrastructure facility improvements;
- estimates of the return to the economy from public works investment;
- any trends or innovations in infrastructure procurement methods; and
- any trends or innovations in construction methods or materials.

Funding for the Commission is authorized at up to $1,000,000 for each of FY2008 and FY2009. The Commission will sunset in September 2009.

This bill has been referred the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and is expected to be scheduled for hearing.

BACKGROUND:
The National Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2006 was introduced on March 08, 2006 by Senator Voinovich of Ohio.

FISCAL IMPACT:
No fiscal impact