

**Statement of  
Thomas J. Madison, Jr.  
Administrator - Designate, Federal Highway Administration  
Before the  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate**

**July 30, 2008**

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before you as you consider my nomination to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. I am deeply honored by the confidence President Bush has placed in me as his nominee for this important position, with concurrence from Transportation Secretary Mary Peters. If confirmed, I will work closely with you to understand your perspectives and respond to your priorities regarding our nation's Federal highway program.

It is a particular honor that both New York Senators are in attendance today. Senator Schumer, thank you for your gracious introduction, as well as Senator Clinton, I thank you both for all of your help and support. New Yorkers and all Americans are blessed to have your representation in the United States Senate.

I also want to recognize my amazing family, including my wife Tracy, my beautiful young children Morgan and Brooks, my parents Pat and Tom Madison, and my in-laws Kathy and Pete Manzo. Their steadfast love and support has made it possible for me to sit before you today.

We meet today as believers in America's rich and important transportation legacy. I am very appreciative of the leadership our governments have provided in moving freight and people with efficiency and innovation.

A half-century ago, Dwight D. Eisenhower created a national highway system that transformed America from a nation of streets and roads to one of highways and interstates. President Eisenhower envisioned a vital network linking ports and airports, stimulating an agricultural and manufacturing economy, fostering new business growth, encouraging tourism and exploration, and mobilizing troops and equipment for our national defense.

Today, we are the stewards of what was conceived and built before us, even as we pursue a new vision for the future of our nation's transportation infrastructure. I am very proud to be considered for participation in that dialogue.

Many years of work in state and local government and the private sector have provided me with the skills, knowledge, and qualifications necessary to perform the duties of Federal Highway Administrator. If confirmed, I am confident that my executive

management background, strong work ethic, and passion for transportation issues will help me effectively lead the FHWA.

Throughout my career, positions of increasing responsibility and complexity have taught me about the role of government at all levels and given me a strong sense of civic purpose. I have experienced professional growth and enjoyed great personal reward in every assignment, always redoubling my commitment to the tenets of public service.

This was especially true during my tenure as chief transportation advisor to the Governor of New York, and later as the state's Transportation Commissioner. In these roles, I oversaw New York's vast transportation system, including port and aviation facilities, freight and passenger rail services, local transit providers, bicycle and pedestrian programs, 240,000 lane miles, and 17,400 bridges.

Deep involvement with transportation and infrastructure has strengthened my belief that these are among the most important matters government must consider. While this committee regularly engages in complex transportation issues, the significance of our nation's roads and bridges is too often overlooked by other policy makers and taken for granted by the public.

If confirmed, I believe my desire to raise awareness about the vital role our transportation system plays in America's environmental sustainability, national security, and economic competitiveness will serve the position well.

I am excited to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead, even during the closing months of this Administration. Pursuing congestion relief initiatives, improving system mobility and reliability, enhancing highway safety profiles, and exploring new ways to maintain, operate, and expand our system are critical areas that must continue to be deliberated and addressed.

With transportation reauthorization upon us, how to pay for the growing needs of our aging system is also of paramount concern. As funding becomes more constrained and projects grow geometrically more expensive, we must accept the reality that the traditional pillars of government financing for transportation infrastructure are no longer sufficient. I hope we can work together to examine new ways of designing, maintaining, expanding, and funding our system and provide a seamless transition to the future stewards of the Federal highway program.

I am honored to be considered for this important position and, if confirmed, I will work tirelessly and faithfully to execute the duties of Federal Highway Administrator.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, and I am anxious to respond to any questions you may have.