

MEDIA RELEASE FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

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LIUNA Joins Governor Rendell, Secretary LaHood and Transportation Sector Leaders in the Effort to Invest in Building America

Terry O'Sullivan Highlights Build America 2010 Campaign to Create Family-Supporting Jobs, Restore and Strengthen America's Competitiveness

Summerdale, PA (August 10, 2010) – Terry O'Sullivan, General President of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – outlined "Build America 2010" today for participants of *Infrastructure at a Crossroads*, a major forum on rebuilding America's "basics," including roads, bridges, railways, energy systems, water systems and school facilities.

The forum was led by U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and convened a wide variety of transportation-sector experts, policymakers and advocates. It aimed to address solutions such as legislative action, long-term planning, capital investment, and public-private partnerships to take care of America's fundamental and critical infrastructure.

"If you told the typical motorists that the Department of Transportation has determined that one in four bridges they drive over is structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, they would be alarmed," O'Sullivan told the forum. "If the American people were fully aware that in the construction industry – a key driver of our economy – as many as one in five workers are jobless, they would be alarmed. And all the while, China is building world-class highway and rapid rail systems. LIUNA believes it's time to sound the alarm loudly."

Part of the Build America 2010 effort is to inform the public. For example, LIUNA is sponsoring billboards ahead of deficient bridges to inform motorists. Forum participants viewed replicas of the billboards at the event. In addition, the union is sponsoring radio and online ads, and its thousands of activists are joining the fight for good jobs and to build America.

The member-driven, media-driven effort is running at the national and state levels. Rallies, billboards, other ads and news conferences have begun in Colorado, Indiana, Connecticut and Maryland and will continue in Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia over the course of the next several weeks. Following the initial events, members and allies are reaching out to Senators asking for help in passing a new Surface Transportation Bill, as well as other job-creation measures that leave behind real assets and a positive legacy for taxpayers.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, America is facing a \$2.2 trillion gap – up from \$1.3 trillion in 2001 – between current investment and what's required to bring the country's fundamentals to a point that will allow it to remain globally competitive.

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“We need champions in the Senate – and at all levels of government – to make taking care of the basics of our country the highest priority,” O’Sullivan said. “Visionaries like Roosevelt and Eisenhower understood that bold public projects are smart investments that help make the U.S. a world superpower, create millions of jobs and improve quality of life for all. Now is the time – more than ever, people need jobs and more than ever we need to build the basics of America. It’s a no-brainer to match the two.”

The forum was sponsored by Build America’s Future, of which LIUNA is a member.

For more information about Build America 2010, visit www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org.

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The half-million members of LIUNA – the Laborers’ International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of workers who are proud to build America.