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San José Mayor Chuck Reed Joins National, Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Coalition

Washington, DC – Today Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (CA), Governor Ed Rendell (PA), and Mayor Michael Bloomberg (NYC), co-chairs of Building America's Future, announced that Mayor Chuck Reed (D-San José) has joined its bipartisan and national infrastructure coalition comprised of state and locally elected officials to help secure a renewed federal commitment to infrastructure.

Building America's Future is dedicated to smart infrastructure investment – energy systems, roads and bridges, mass transit, water and sewer systems, rail, ports, airports, levees and dams, schools and housing – to enhance the quality of life and safety of our communities, create jobs, and promote energy independence.

"We welcome Mayor Reed and look forward to working with him as we continue to ensure that infrastructure funding is treated like the national priority it should be," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (CA). "No one wants their child in portable classrooms, or stuck in traffic rather than at home with their families. Infrastructure has a direct link to our quality of life, and Americans deserve it to be safe, efficient and modern."

"As mayors and governors, we see first-hand the success and failure of federal infrastructure investment," said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg (I).

"History has taught us that failing to invest in our infrastructure is akin to walking away from our future. It is not just about investing more money; it's about investing it in the right places in an efficient and accountable way. "

"We recently commissioned a poll that found almost unanimous support for infrastructure investment, regardless of political or geographic lines," said Governor Ed Rendell (PA). "But Americans are tired of wasteful spending that does nothing to increase the safety or economic vitality of their communities. We look forward to working with all of our members to help guarantee that infrastructure investment be spent wisely and effectively."

Mayor Reed emphasized the need for high quality infrastructure in San José.

“Every year San José commuters waste 54 hours in traffic; time they would rather spend at home with their families,” said Mayor Chuck Reed (D-San José). “Smart infrastructure investment, like the future BART to Silicon Valley connection that will provide 100,000 commuter trips per day, is so critical to our quality of life and economic vitality.”

Mayor Reed will also travel to Washington, DC next week to discuss infrastructure investment and clean tech innovation with the Obama administration, legislative leaders and various federal agencies/departments.

Infrastructure Facts:

- San José currently has a backlog of over \$500 million in unfunded road repairs and transportation infrastructure needs. (City of San José Department of Transportation)

-San José commuters spend an extra 54 hours in traffic every year – wasting on average 38 gallons of fuel. (Texas Transportation Institute)

- San José’s Water Pollution Control Plant is over 50 years old and needs to be upgraded. Studies have identified \$1 billion in infrastructure upgrade needs, of which about \$250 million in critical items are moving forward in the next five years. The Plant also is essential to meeting two other city goals: recycling or beneficially reusing its 100 million gallons per day of treated wastewater, and helping to achieve zero waste by turning biosolids to energy. (City of San José Environmental Services Department)

-San José relies on the California Delta for a large portion of its drinking water. A 6.2 earthquake in the Delta could destroy levees and, within four to seven days, obliterate much of California’s fresh water supply. Providing 100 million gallons per day of recycled drinking water is critical to San José’s water independence. (Mayor Reed’s office)

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