

October 25, 2011

Washington, D.C. – Today, Members of the New Democrat Coalition met with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to discuss the importance of improving and rebuilding our infrastructure to get Americans back to work and compete in the 21st century global economy.

During the meeting, the New Dems presented their agenda for improving U.S. infrastructure and strengthening manufacturing to Secretary LaHood. Developed by the New Dem Critical Infrastructure and Manufacturing Task Force led by Representatives Rick Larsen (WA-2), Jason Altmire (PA-4) and Laura Richardson (CA-37), [the agenda](#) calls for passage of the long-overdue highway transportation bill, embracing innovative transportation financing partnerships, and modernizing our air, port and rail systems.

Following the meeting, the New Dem Critical Infrastructure and Manufacturing Task Force Co-Chairs Reps. Larsen, Altmire and Richardson said: "Rebuilding and modernizing our nation's roads, bridges and tunnels is a win-win for all Americans, as it will create jobs today and help businesses and workers compete in the global marketplace for generations to come. Secretary LaHood's commitment to helping businesses, people and goods move more efficiently is evident in communities across the country and it's time to build on his work for the safety and prosperity of all Americans. The New Democrats are committed to working with the Administration and our colleagues in Congress to, once again, make our nation's infrastructure the best in the world."

"Investing in transportation won't just put tens of thousands of Americans to work on construction sites across the country, these projects will also lay a foundation for economic growth for years to come," said Secretary LaHood. "That's why we're committed to working with our partners in Congress to ensure that America has the safest, most efficient transportation system in the world."

The New Democrat Coalition is dedicated to maintaining America's standing as the world's strongest, most successful nation. Founded in 1997, The New Dems believe firmly in the power of American ingenuity and innovation, and are focused on finding ways to foster and harness this creativity to grow our economy, create new American jobs, and ensure a safer and more secure future for our country. For more information on the 42-member Coalition, visit the New

Dems website at <http://ndc.crowley.house.gov>.