

Environmental and Energy Study Institute Briefing

**MOVING AWAY FROM HIGH GAS PRICES:  
Transportation Policy and Oil Independence**

Thursday, July 17, 2008  
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

2322 Rayburn House Office Building



# MOVING AWAY FROM HIGH GAS PRICES: Transportation Policy and Oil Independence

## FACTS ABOUT CITIES

- 19,429 cities and towns nationwide
- 9,361 cities a population of less than 1,000
- NLC's membership includes metro, suburban, and rural areas
- Transportation choices are essential



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## STATE AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP

- More than 75 percent of the four million mile highway and road network
- 90 percent of transit systems
- Close to 300,000 bridges.



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## TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

For city budgets:

- Denver, CO: Turned up thermostats and went to business casual
- Cleveland, OH: Rearranged trash pickup routes and sold 1,000 cars from city fleet



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## TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

For city budgets:

- Fremont, NJ: Improving natural gas facilities
- Austin, TX: Seminars on proper maintenance schedules and other ways to reduce fuel costs



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## TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

For the community:

- Complete streets
- Transit-oriented development
- Regional transportation planning
- Coordinating land use planning and development with transportation for mixed-use development
- Bus Rapid Transit
- Congestion Pricing

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## POLICY RECOMENDATIONS

- 1. Increase and Index the Gas Tax*
- 2. Prioritize the maintenance, expansion, and new development of transportation and infrastructure systems*



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## POLICY RECOMENDATIONS

- 3. Encourage the use of innovative financing mechanisms*
- 4. Emphasize the need for intermodalism/multimodalism*



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## POLICY RECOMENDATIONS

- 5. Increase funding and support for public, water, air, and passenger and freight rail modes of transportation*



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This presentation will be available at [www.eesi.org](http://www.eesi.org).



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