



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 16, 2009

CONTACT:
BEN GROSSMAN-COHEN, 202-478-6185
BGROSSMAN-COHEN@MRSS.COM

Transportation for America applauds new inter-agency effort to connect transportation, housing affordability, and livability

Washington, D.C. — In a bid to ensure that environmental policy helps, and does not hinder, efforts to make our communities more livable, affordable and convenient, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has joined an unusual partnership with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The move, announced Tuesday by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, is intended to “help American families ... gain better access to affordable housing, more transportation options, and lower transportation costs,” and protect the environment along the way, according to an EPA statement.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson joined HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and DOT Secretary Ray LaHood before the Senate Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee Tuesday to testify about their joint **Partnership for Sustainable Communities**, an initiative to bridge inter-agency boundaries that sometimes impede progress.

Jackson told the committee that it makes sense for these three agencies to work together:

“Where you live affects how you get around, and how you get around often affects where you live. Both decisions affect our environment. Working together rather than independently, our three agencies can improve the environment, the transportation system, and homes and communities throughout the United States.”

“We’re encouraged to see these agencies working together to lead the way in meeting these national challenges head on,” said T4 America Director James Corless. “We all know that we can’t address climate change, dependence on oil, housing affordability or access to transportation choices independently. These issues are inextricably connected — and any effective solutions must be evaluated comprehensively and dealt with holistically.”

###

ABOUT TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA

Transportation for America is a broad coalition of housing, environmental, equal opportunity, public health, business, transportation and other organizations focused on creating a 21st Century national transportation program. The coalition’s goal is to build a modernized infrastructure and healthy communities where people can live, work and play by aligning national, state, and local transportation policies with an array of issues like economic opportunity, climate change, energy security, health, housing and community development. www.t4america.org