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News Release

FORMER GOVERNOR FRANK KEATING AND TRANSPORTATION COALITION ANNOUNCE 2010 LEADERSHIP AND CAMPAIGN

TULSA, OK – (Nov. 12) The Transportation Revenues Used Strictly For Transportation (TRUST) road funding coalition today announced at a news conference in Tulsa the addition of Oklahoma’s 25th Governor, Frank Keating, as the new co-chairman of their coalition and efforts to launch a 2010 campaign to increase Oklahoma’s federal road funding, as well as plans to protect state funding.

During his remarks, Keating expressed that adequate infrastructure should be a fundamental priority of government at every level, “During my time as Governor, rebuilding our roads and bridges was a top priority. I continue to believe that until we adequately invest in our state’s transportation system Oklahoma will always lag behind in jobs, prosperity and public safety. That is why I am so pleased to join TRUST in their efforts.”

Keating is replacing Tom Love, CEO of Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, who served as TRUST co-chairman for four years and will now serve as chairman emeritus. The group expressed a deep appreciation for Love’s capable service, which helped catapult the group into a thriving statewide organization.

Keating was introduced by Neal McCaleb, former state secretary of transportation and director of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority during the Bellmon and Keating administrations, and now serves as president of TRUST. McCaleb expressed it was a pivotal time for Oklahoma when it comes to transportation issues, “The current inaction of Congress in renewing federal highway funding is costing our state millions.

“And the reality is the federal fuel tax simply is not sufficient to maintain our state’s roads and bridges. We are going to have to be innovative, think outside the box and put all possible alternative funding methods on the table,” said McCaleb.

The group plans to launch a sustained public relations and legislative advocacy effort at federal and state levels to insure positive outcomes for Oklahoma with the next renewal of federal highway law, and to protect state road funding during the next legislative session.

Albert Kelly, TRUST co-chairman and CEO of SpiritBank, called upon community leaders statewide to get involved, “If we don’t keep our funding commitment to transportation, we risk losing the important gains we have made in rebuilding our state’s infrastructure. So today I am calling upon all chambers of commerce, the business community and concerned citizens to join with us in our efforts to build a prosperous future for Oklahoma by becoming a member of the TRUST coalition.”

Since 2005, TRUST has grown into a diverse coalition of more than 120 organizations statewide that includes bankers, petroleum marketers, energy producers, agri-business, chambers of commerce, public safety groups, concerned citizens, elected officials and highway industries. The group is focused solely on issues of road and bridge funding to further Oklahoma’s infrastructure.

TRUST engages in ongoing public relations efforts, grassroots campaigns, and paid media campaigns that advocate public policy goals, as well as educate elected officials and the public on the importance of transportation funding. To learn more visit www.RestoreTRUST.org.

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