

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Patricia Pincus (202) 434-0607  
[patricia.pincus@fd.com](mailto:patricia.pincus@fd.com)

## **LARGE COALITION CHALLENGES GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER TOLLING AS AN OPTION**

### **Maryland and Virginia are first recipients of The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association Challenge Award**

**Washington, DC, November 15, 2005**— A diverse coalition of organizations issued a direct challenge to state and local governments to consider tolling each time a new road or road reconstruction project is considered. Citing deteriorating roads and a lack of funding to pay for needed improvements as two of the biggest challenges facing state and local government officials, the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) and its partners challenged every state and local government to include tolling as an option for every road project considered from this day forward.

Patrick Jones, Executive Director of IBTTA, noting that “roads have become a lower priority than they should be,” urged that “the time has come for all levels of government to acknowledge they don’t have the resources they need to build, maintain, and upgrade America’s roads.”

Jones and coalition members issued a challenge to every state and local government, every transportation policy maker, and every elected official to do the following:

1. Include tolling as an option whenever they consider building a new road or upgrading an existing road in their jurisdictions.
2. Include tolling as an option when they consider road projects that may be several years off to determine whether tolling would allow them to accelerate those projects.
3. If they determine that tolling is not appropriate, provide a publicly available explanation as to why that is the case.

Jones also presented Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich and Virginia Governor Mark Warner with the first-ever IBTTA “Challenge” award for their recent efforts to advance a study to consider adding toll lanes to the Capital Beltway.

“IBTTA is grateful for the extraordinary efforts Maryland and Virginia have made to advance the use of tolling as a solution to current transportation problems.” Jones added, “Tolling provides an effective and politically acceptable way to begin to address our country’s infrastructure needs. Tolling helps to ensure that motorists get the roads they need. Tolling ensures that the users of the roads – and only the users of the roads – are the ones who pay for them. And tolling provides a way to help better manage and operate our nation’s valuable and scarce road infrastructure.”

The press conference included statements from Art Guzzetti, Director of Policy and Advocacy, American Public Transportation Association; Michael Repogle, Transportation Director, Environmental Defense; Ken Weinstein, Chief Executive Officer, Hudson Institute; Neil Schuster, President and CEO, Intelligent Transportation Society of America; and Geoffrey Segal, Director of Government Reform, Reason Foundation.

###

**ABOUT IBTTA**

*The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) is the worldwide alliance of toll operators and associated industries that provides a forum for sharing knowledge and ideas to promote and enhance toll-financed transportation services. IBTTA is the worldwide association for the owners and operators of toll highways, bridges and tunnels and the companies that provide products and services to the toll industry. IBTTA has more than 250 corporate members that operate toll facilities in 35 states in the U.S. and in 25 countries on six continents around the world. IBTTA members are leaders in technological innovation and understand how technology can reshape road financing, organizational models and service delivery.*