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## Press Release

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### **Ficano attends funding meeting at White House**

**Washington, D.C.** – Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano joined other county leaders from across the nation Tuesday for a meeting at the White House with President Barack Obama and senior cabinet officials to discuss a variety of federal funding issues.

Ficano said the Obama administration unveiled a streamlined application process to assist counties seeking aid through federal transportation grants and other programs.

The county will utilize the new process to apply for federal funding for a project to provide regional rail service from Ann Arbor to Detroit, Ficano said Wednesday.

Federally qualified health clinics and additional funding for demolition projects were among other issues on the agenda.

“There was a commitment to cut the red tape and allow counties to apply directly for funding,” said Ficano.

In addition to President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, other speakers on the agenda included Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of Health and Human Services; Janet Napolitano, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and Ray LaHood, secretary of the Department of Transportation.

With nearly two million residents, Wayne County is the most populated county in Michigan and the 13<sup>th</sup> largest county in the U.S.

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