



**National Surface Transportation Policy
and Revenue Study Commission**

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Transportation Essential To Our National Security, Our National Economy And Our Way Of Life

“Our unity as a nation is sustained by free communication of thought and by easy transportation of people and goods... Together the unifying forces of our communication and transportation systems are dynamic elements in the very name we bear — United States. Without them, we would be a mere alliance of many separate parts.”



— Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1955

A Looming Transportation Crisis

- Aging System
- Inadequate Capacity



No Easy Answers

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Fichten

MOSES CROSSES THE GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY

Major Recommendations

- Reform
- Increased Investment
 - \$87 billion per year to \$225 billion per year

New Programs

Current Federal Surface Transportation Programs

Federal Highway Administration	62 programs
Federal Transit Administration	20 programs
Federal Railroad Administration	6 programs
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	12 programs
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	8 programs
Total	108 programs

Proposed Federal Surface Transportation Programs

1. **Rebuilding America** — state of good repair
2. **Global Competitiveness** — gateways and goods movement
3. **Metropolitan Mobility** — congestion relief in major urban areas
4. **Connecting America** — connections to smaller cities and towns
5. **Intercity Passenger Rail** — regional networks in high growth corridors
6. **Highway Safety** — incentives to save lives
7. **Environmental Stewardship** — both human and natural environments
8. **Energy Security** — development of alternative transportation fuels
9. **Federal Lands** — providing public access on federal property
10. **Research & Development** — a coherent national research program

How Will We Pay For It?

- Federal Motor Fuels Tax
 - To be replaced by VMT fee in future
- Freight Fee
- Customs Fees (portion)
- Ticket Tax
- Cap-and-Trade Revenue
- Investment Tax Credit
- Tolling
- Congestion Pricing

Modernizing Our Transportation Network To Meet The Challenges Of The 21st Century

- Will be the Real Economic Stimulus We Need
 - Short term Jobs
 - Long term Jobs
- Will Make America More Competitive in 21st Century Global Marketplace
- Is Essential for a Healthy and Robust Economy
 - Makes Other Investments Possible
- Will Reduce Our Dependency on Foreign Oil
- Will Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Will Save Lives
- And Will Be Paid for by Users

Before Turning To The Transportation Bill,
Let's Take A Look At What Is Happening
In Washington?

Mark Twain on Washington

“There is something good and motherly about Washington, the grand old benevolent National Asylum for the helpless.”

Financial Crisis / Economic Recession

“Man looks in the abyss, there’s nothing staring back at him. At that moment, man finds his character. And that is what keeps him out of the abyss.”

From “Wall Street”

Ambitious Agenda

- Long Term Finances
 - State of Union's Finances (www.pgpf.org)
 - A Financial Wake-Up Call (www.concordcoalition.org)
- Stimulus
- Financial Reform
- Climate Change
- Health Care
- Partisanship / 2010 Elections
- Elephant in Room: Taxes

Transportation

- Program Expires September 30, 2009
- SAFETEA-LU Legacy
 - Trust Fund Bankrupt
 - Rescission
- Status of Multi-Year Legislation
- Extension Needed
 - House: 3 months
 - Senate / Administration: 18 months (really 24-30 months)
 - Continuing Resolution: 1 month at reduced rates

Issues

- Very Critical Period
 - Environmental Agenda
 - Anti New Capacity, Especially New Highway Capacity
 - Anti User Fee / Trust Fund
 - Metropolitan Focus
 - Diminished State Role
 - Climate Change Focus
 - Rural / Highway Dependent Areas At Special Risk
 - Balkanization
 - Stifle Economic Growth
- Increased Investment
 - How do we raise the revenue?
- Reform
 - How do we get right kind of bill?

Making A Difference

What's Our Ask?

- Increased Revenues
- Fair Treatment For Highways and Rural Areas

Impressive Congressional Delegation

Democrats

Conrad (ND)
Dorgan (ND)
Baucus (MT)
Testor (MT)
Johnson (SD)
Nelson (NE)
Bennett (CO)
Udall (CO)
Bingaman (NM)
Udall (NM)

9 House Members

Republicans

Thune (SD)
Enzi (WY)
Barrasso (WY)
Johanns (NE)
Inhofe (OK)
Coburn (OK)
Hutchison (TX)
Cornyn (TX)

8 House Members

Be Bipartisan In Your Approach

Build Solid Political Relationships

- Political Contributions / Fundraising
- Meet with Member in Washington / District
- Organize “Meet-and-Greet” Events
- Political Party Activities
- Speeches
- Site visits
- Personal “Remembrances”
- MAINTAIN CONTINUAL PRESENCE

Communicate Effectively

- Explain Concerns and Positions
 - Simply and Concisely
 - Exhibit Conviction
 - Substantive Knowledge
 - Pros and Cons
- Use People Skills
- Make High Quality Educational Presentations
- Use Special Web Site Devoted To Issue
- Analyze Specific Issues and Political Situation
- Develop Strong Factual and Policy Arguments

Advocate Positions

- Use Direct Personal Contacts / Meetings
- Meet With Personal and Committee Staff
- Use Calls, Letters, E-Mails, Letters to Editors, Op Eds, Etc.

Form Coalition

- Allows Team Effort
- Structured, Dues Paying
- Comprehensive, Coordinated Efforts
- Increased Political Clout
- Activate / Energize Other Parties With Similar Interests
- Coordinated Media / PR Strategy

Utilize “Independent” Outside Opinion

- Academic Experts
- Think Tanks
- Opinion Polls
- Government Studies

Use Persistence, Hard Work And Common Sense

- Keep Pressure On
- Demonstrate High Level Of Interest
 - Repeated Contacts
 - Involve CEOs
- Commit Adequate Resources
- Don't Get Discouraged
- Face Up To Problems

Will Our Generation Do The Right Thing?

“We should avoid ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden we ourselves ought to bear.”

--George Washington 1796