

KEY FACTS ABOUT AMERICA'S ROAD AND BRIDGE CONDITIONS AND FEDERAL FUNDING

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The nation's roads and highways are the backbone of the U.S. transportation system, providing Americans with approximately 3 trillion miles of travel annually. From commuters heading to work, people driving to stores, church or the doctor's office and businesses shipping goods to customers throughout the nation and around the globe, Americans depend on good roads in their communities.

But there are problems on our nation's roads, highways and bridges. With traffic congestion worsening and road and bridge deterioration continuing, the U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that the current backlog of unfunded but needed road, highway and bridge repairs and improvements is currently \$461 billion.

In 2009, Congress will be required to reauthorize the current long-term federal surface transportation program -- the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). This legislation will have a significant impact on the future condition and traffic congestion levels of the nation's key roads, bridges and highways.

Federal Funding for Our Nation's Road and Bridge System Generates Jobs; Making Needed Highway Improvements Assures Economic Security

- Our nation's highways, transit systems, railroads, airports, ports and inland waterways drive our economy, enabling all industries to achieve the growth and prosperity that have made America strong and prosperous.
- A U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) study concludes that for each \$1 billion of federal spending on highway construction nationwide, 47,500 jobs are generated annually.
- The USDOT study also states that every dollar invested in the nation's highway system yields \$5.40 in economic benefits in reduced delays, improved safety and lower vehicle operating costs.
- Seventy-four percent of the \$8.4 trillion worth of commodities delivered annually from sites in the U.S. is transported by trucks on the state's highways. One percent is delivered by a combination of trucks, rail, ships or barges, and 12 percent is delivered by parcel, U.S. Postal Service or courier, which use multiple modes, including highways.
- Driving on roads in need of repair costs U.S. motorists \$67 billion a year in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs – \$333 per motorist.
- Traffic congestion costs American motorists \$63.1 billion a year in wasted time and fuel costs. Americans spend 3.7 billion hours a year stuck in traffic.
- Motor vehicle crashes cost the U.S. \$230 billion per year, \$819 for each resident, in medical costs, lost productivity, travel delays workplace costs, insurance costs and legal costs.

The Federal Highway Trust Fund Guarantees Funding Needed for Our Nation's Roads and Bridges

- The Federal Highway Trust Fund was established by the Federal-Aid Highway and the Highway Revenue Acts of 1956 to provide revenue needed to help build and improve the Interstate System and roads and bridges that are eligible for federal aid.
- The Federal Highway Trust Fund is funded by a federal gasoline tax of 18.4 cents per gallon and a federal

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