Need for a New and Enhanced USA National Highway Policy and Funding

16th IRF World Meeting

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History of the Interstate
Interstate System
Today

- 1% of the 4 million miles of U.S. Roads
- Supports 24% of nations traffic
- 47,000 miles long
- 62 Major Superhighways crisscrossing nation in a grid
- 244 beltways and spurs
- Each Interstate – at least 2 – 12 foot lanes (3.6m) in each direction
- Exits almost every 3 miles (5k) in rural and 1 mile (1.6k) in urban
- 54,633 Bridges and 104 Tunnels have 50 year design life
- Carries $15 Trillion in goods and services to and from manufacturers, retailers and consumers a year.
Devore Interchange in San Bernardino (I-15 and I-215)

- Designed for 100 trips per day
- Today: 21,000 trucks per day, 630,000 trucks per month, 7.2 million per year and growing.
- 2040 – 380,000 commuters and commerce
- 1200 hours of vehicle delay per day..$3.75 billion annual cost
Decades of Underinvestment

- Highway Investment Need - $175 - $225 Billion annually over next 50 years
  - $85 Billion – System Rehabilitation
  - $71 Billion – System Expansion
  - $18 Billion – System Enhancements

- Current investment – 40%
Estimation of Reduced Program Spending Beyond 2011

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Highways</th>
<th>Transit</th>
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<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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Decline in Purchasing Power of Motor Fuel Taxes
(Based on Inflation since 1993)
Future Revenue

- Current US system relies on fuel taxes
- Marked decline in revenues
- Two National Commissions have called for short and long-term solutions.
  - Short Run: Increase fuel taxes….  
    • Direct
    • Indexing to Inflation
  - Study feasibility of alternatives… VMT fees
The Current Climate

- The good and bad news
  - The good news: a high priority given to infrastructure by the new Administration
  - The creation of new law is underway and we have excellent Congressional leadership
  - The bad news: The Highway Trust Fund has gone broke
  - There is no support for increasing user fees
  - There are many competing goals at the national level
The Obama Administration’s Direction

- The new administration took office in January
- The economic crisis led to the passage of an economic stimulus act
- Transportation received $45 billion in funding
  - Highways $26.6 billion
  - Transit $8.4 billion
  - Aviation $1.3 billion
  - High Speed Rail $8.5 billion
The Obama Administration’s Direction Continued

- The long-term proposals postponed
- Some key features will likely include:
  - Livable communities
  - Major emphasis on transit
  - Congestion reduction
  - Passenger rail revitalization
  - No user fee increases in the immediate future
  - Studies of VMT
The Washington Debate

- The House of Representatives (T&I Committee) has developed a bill
- The Senate counterpart (EPW) has not
- The Administration has not
- Funding is a critical concern
- Other major legislation has “higher” priority
Federal government must continue to play a strong role in investing and maintaining an integrated and multimodal national surface transportation system. States and local governments should be provided with maximum flexibility to use federal revenues from existing core sources to meet systemic transportation needs. Strong accountability measures must accompany substantially increased funding to ensure resources are spent as efficiently and effectively as possible.
AASHTO Focus

- We need to restore purchasing power
- Investment levels over the long-term need to correlate with documented needs
- Investments in safety and research remain a compelling need
- The impact of inflation on commodities and construction costs must be addressed in setting investment levels
How can we move to Success

- What is Success???
  A Safe and Efficient Transportation System
  - Livable communities
  - Multi-modes... Transit and Rail
  - Congestion Reduction
  - Safe
  - Reliable
Queen for a Day

- Fund research on new alternatives for funding
- Invest in Infrastructure… Every $1.00 invested results in $1.50 back into the economy…. Jobs, Materials, Indirect
- Every $1 billion in highway infrastructure creates 37,500 jobs.
- Provide Flexibility to maximize funding and build partnerships
Keep Working 😊
Thank You
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