



AMERICAN
HIGHWAY
USERS
ALLIANCE

2010 Year in Review

Highlights of Successes

This summary report was delivered to the membership during the 2010 Annual Meeting of The Highway Users. More details, including copies of documents referenced throughout, are available on request.

American Highway Users Alliance

1101 14th Street, NW, Suite 750 • Washington, DC 20005

202.857.1200 (P) • 202.857.1220 (F)

www.highways.org • www.facebook.com/highways

The American Highway Users Alliance is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit advocacy organization serving as the united voice of the transportation community promoting safe, uncongested highways and enhanced freedom of mobility. The Highway Users and its predecessor organizations have been instrumental in the passage of virtually all major highway and traffic safety legislation since 1932.

Congressional Testimony

- Testified before Senate Environment & Public Works Committee to promote highway safety.
 - Urged larger safety core program to improve road hazards.
 - Chairman Boxer commended us and asked for help in developing safety provisions in the bill in mid-April. (Full testimony is available at www.highways.org.)

Highway Hero Award

- Awarded Senator Max Baucus the distinguished “Highway Hero Award” at our June meeting for outstanding attention to highways and roads..
 - The Senator urged highway users to push for authorization.
 - He commended us on innovative grassroots outreach, i.e., social networking.

Grassroots Growth Program

- Delivered *The Road to Congress* educational binders to all candidates for 2010 Congressional elections.
- Grew our Facebook grassroots network from less than 100 to more than 10,000 fans in one year.
 - Convened new Grassroots Taskforce.
 - Established educational goals to focus on individual costs to highway users, understanding highways as an economic investment and the importance of a new authorization bill.
 - Targeted new Grassroots Campaign “outside-the-beltway” contacts with educational initiatives and opportunities to influence local politicians and the media.

Highway Funding

- Met with White house economics staff, Department of the Treasury officials, and Office of Management & Budget staff to discuss President Obama’s announcements on highways for job and economic growth in mid-September.
- Sent thank you letters to Chairman Olver and Ranking Member Latham for FY11 House highway appropriations bill with \$45.218 billion for roads.
- Commended Congress for final, bipartisan passage of HIRE Act by a vote of 68-29.
 - Issued numerous *Legislative Alerts* and *Legislative Updates* urging members and allies to contact Congress.
 - Engaged in extensive lobbying during the first quarter to push for passage of the bill.
 - Met with staff from offices of Sens. Baucus, Boxer, Voinovich and Thune; and Reps. Oberstar, Mica, Duncan, Boucher, Hagan, Cohen and Etheridge.
 - Restored fiscal solvency to Highway Trust Fund through end of 2010.
- Expressed concerns with the Administration’s FY11 budget proposal with Congressional staff in early February.
 - Urged appropriations staff not to divert \$4 billion from formula programs to fund DOT Secretary’s discretionary programs.
 - Commended House committee on FY11 appropriations bill.

Highway Authorization

- Expressed concerns at DOT Reauthorization Forum in mid-July about congestion relief's drop from DOT strategic plan.
- Met with Senate Environmental & Public Works Committee to discuss highway bill policy in early April. **Key points:**
 - Increase Highway Trust Fund revenue.
 - Maintain guarantees, firewalls.
 - Increase highway program size to \$450 billion over six years.
 - Emphasize highway freight corridors & streamlining regulations.

Legislation & Policy

- Released economic impact study on cost of snowstorms on March 30. **Key points:**
 - Hundreds of millions of dollars are lost each day a state is closed due to snow; urged better planning and funding for snow removal operations.
 - Garnered extensive media coverage: CNN, WTOP, ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC local affiliate hits.
 - News conference speakers included representatives from U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington, and local owner of an Exxon Mobil station.
 - Addressed Winter Financial Summit on study findings.
- Urged all transportation fuel fees be deposited into Highway Trust Fund in letter to Sens. Kerry, Graham, and Lieberman on climate change bill. **Actions/outcomes:**
 - Co-signed letter with 26 trade groups.
 - The letter and campaign forced Sen. Kerry and others to examine transportation revenue section.
 - Obama Administration rejected using climate bill to raise fuel taxes for the Highway Trust Fund.
- Critiqued DOT's livability initiative during multiple public events and press interviews throughout the year. **Key points:**
 - The initiative is poorly defined and is biased against road improvements.
 - FY11 budget proposal included \$500 million diversion in highway funds.
 - Sec. LaHood stated: "[This is] the end of the era of favoring motorized transportation over non-motorized modes."
- Worked with fuel, trucking allies to craft a unified user fee position to present to Congressional tax-writing committees early this year.
- Partnered with Associated General Contractors (AGC) and American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) to critique environmental streamlining and planning provisions in the Surface Transportation Assistance Act with House Highways & Transit Subcommittee staff.
- The Highway Users has provided expertise for 10+ years on the issue to the Committee.

More...

Safety

- Issued news release applauding road fatalities drop in 2009 by 9.7% as compared to 2008.
- Participated in first-ever “Towards Zero Deaths” Summit to create solutions to reduce traffic fatalities over time.
- Roadway Safety Foundation, Highway Users’ chartered foundation, exhibited at the Distracted Driving Summit; urged improved roadway design to cut traffic fatalities.
- Signed letter to House and Senate Commerce Committees concerning Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 2010 urging attention to various provisions that could unintentionally have adverse safety impacts.
- Met with DOT Assistant Secretary for Policy with the Roadway Infrastructure Safety Coalition (RISC) to discuss rural road safety in late April.
 - Urged inclusion of a high risk rural road program in next federal highway bill.
- Joined the Coalition for Older Roadway Users Safety (CORUS) with American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), AARP, and others to push for safety bill (H.R. 3355) to improve road design for older drivers and reduce their fatality rate.
- Participated in AAA Aging & Mobility Roundtable to review older driver safety proposals from ATSSA and AARP.

Freight

- Met with the Senate Commerce Committee to discuss the Freight Act introduced by Sen. Lautenberg, Murray and Cantwell.
 - The bill did not consider highway freight bottlenecks for discretionary funding.
 - Staff agreed to work together to include bottlenecks in future revisions.

Energy

- President & CEO Greg Cohen spoke at Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) Day on Capitol Hill, delivered Energy 101 presentation tying highway policy with energy policy. Wrote chapter on automobile efficiency for CEA release at Energy Day event.

