

DRIVING AHEAD

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A bi-monthly newsletter of the
American Highway Users Alliance

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INSIDE HIGHWAY USERS

Highway Users Names Governor Bill Graves New Chairman

On June 6, former Kansas Governor and current CEO of the American Trucking Associations (ATA) Bill Graves became chairman of The Highway Users Board of

Directors. He commented, "I look forward to leading the Highway Users during a time when many transportation experts recognize the need for significant changes to the federal highway program in order to address growing congestion and safety challenges," Graves added. "The current environment presents an opportunity for the Highway Users, as a collaborative group of diverse interests, to assume a more prominent role in the development and promotion of a new vision for the United States' transportation system."



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FEDERAL FRONT

Testifying Before Congress on Climate Change Policy

On May 16, President & CEO Greg Cohen testified on behalf of The Highway Users before the full House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure regarding potential solutions to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and reducing wasted fuel. Cohen promoted a "war on congestion" as the most realistic and economically beneficial solution. For example, Cohen discussed Highway Users' studies which show that eliminating the worst traffic bottlenecks would remove 390 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions over 20 years and save 40 billion gallons of fuel.

He encouraged the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee to authorize a comprehensive, data-driven, congestion relief program. Chairman Oberstar

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Cohen promoted a "war on congestion" as the most realistic and economically beneficial solution to reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Testifying on Public-Private Partnerships of Roads

On May 24, ATA President Governor Bill Graves, OOIDA Executive Vice President Todd Spencer, and Greg Cohen testified before the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit on the current hot topic of public private partnerships (PPPs) and the leasing of public roads to private companies. Cohen described the opportunities and threats presented by PPPs, as identified by the Highway Users' Planning and Government Affairs Committee. The biggest concerns with potential tolling agreements are the possibility for misused revenue, lack of transparency, and extreme toll hikes.

Specifically, Cohen noted that The Highway Users is supportive of some PPPs where the private capital would help build new roads for the primary benefit of affected highway us-

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75th Anniversary

1932 - 2007

Issue Alerts — Your Help is Urgently Needed!

Throughout late May and early June, The Highway Users worked extensively on numerous key issues affecting the transportation industry. These serious issues may have a profound impact on highway users' rights and freedoms. Please take action on these urgent issues:

• Protecting Consumers' Right to Vehicle Choice (CAFE)

As of press time, the Senate is about to consider Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) amendments to H.R. 6, the 2007 Energy Bill. Senators Pryor (D-AR), Bond (R-MO), Levin (D-MI), and Voinovich (R-OH) have introduced a bipartisan amendment to increase CAFE standards to a minimum of 36 miles per gallon by 2022 and light truck standards to at least 30 mpg by 2025. The amendment represents a difficult, but attainable compromise on the CAFE debate. Their standard will increase fuel efficiency by more than 30%, while preserving highway users' abilities to purchase vehicles of their choice. ■

Contact your members of Congress online from The Highway Users web site, www.highways.org. Our legislative action service allows you to edit prepared text or compose your own message, link to your elected representatives, and send your message easily and quickly.

• Full Funding for Highways in Fiscal Year '08

The current highway bill, SAFETEA-LU, promised that increasing revenue from highway user fees would be returned by means of "guaranteed" funding increases through 2009. However, the Administration's budget cut a whopping \$631 million in revenue aligned budget authority (RABA), despite the fact that the highway user fees have already been collected from motorists. There is significant bipartisan support for fully funding the highway program. Please contact your Congressmen and Senators and urge full funding for highways! ■

PLEASE HELP US TAKE A STAND ON THESE KEY ISSUES! LOG ONTO WWW.HIGHWAYS.ORG

• Preventing a New Ban on Off-Shore Access to Fuel Exploration Sites

Modest access to our nation's offshore oil and natural gas resources was approved last year as part of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act and the Administration's 2007-2012 Five-Year Plan for access to the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Recently, a few organizations and some in Congress have attacked these successful initiatives, undermining the progress made to improve our nation's energy security and strengthen our nation's economy. Opening up new areas of U.S. production helps keep fuel prices reasonable for highway users and ensures that U.S. businesses remain competitive. Alert your Congressmen and Senators today! ■

• Proposed Water Bill Would Obstruct Highway Projects

The Clean Water Act, H.R. 2421, proposes to eliminate the word "navigable" from the official definition of "waters of the U.S." in the Clean Water Act (CWA). This seemingly simple deletion would have a broad impact on numerous road projects because it would require the Army Corps of Engineers to issue permits for every project impacting isolated wetlands, including manmade ditches and puddles. When a CWA permit is required for a project, it frequently triggers other federal laws. This would place a significant burden on virtually all road projects and delay or cancel many urgent highway projects. Please contact your Congressman today on this issue. ■

- **Addressing Transportation Leaders at the AASHTO Retreat**

In late May, Cohen was a featured speaker at an AASHTO Retreat held in Cambridge, MD. The event was a "visioning" conference where transportation and industry leaders gathered to generate recommendations for presentation to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. Cohen specifically emphasized the importance of safety, congestion relief, and freight mobility. The retreat was the culmination of nine previous mini-conferences. A final report to the Commission will be prepared by AASHTO, and will be available for Highway Users members after its release.

- **Supporting Innovation in Motor Vehicle Equipment**

On May 16, The Highway Users attended the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association's (MEMA) exhibition on Capitol Hill for its 2007 Legislative Summit and Congressional Reception and Supplier Fair. MEMA's members displayed a variety of cutting-edge technologies with the potential to save lives, save energy, and reduce emissions. MEMA is a member of The Highway Users. For more information about MEMA companies, please visit www.mema.org.

- **Addressing Kentuckians for Transportation on Legislative Issues**

At the Kentuckians for Better Transportation's annual fly-in on May 8, Greg Cohen discussed key federal transportation policies. The organization is a Highway Users member. Specifically, Cohen spoke about the congressional agenda for transportation in 2007, including the next reauthorization bill and the work of the Commissions. Cohen also outlined related Highway Users' priorities for the year. If you are interested in having The Highway Users participate at a meeting in Washington, DC or elsewhere, please contact us at 202-857-1200. In-person or telephone briefings and presentations are included with your benefits at several membership levels.

- **Advocating Motorcycling Safety**

On behalf of the Roadway Safety Foundation (RSF), which was chartered by The Highway Users, we participated in a motorcycle safety partnership meeting on May 11. The group is comprised of NHTSA, FHWA and motorcycle industry and riders organizations. Attendees met to discuss ways to combat motorcycle fatalities and injuries, including educational programs on safety, equipment, rider training, and teaching motorists how to safely navigate around motorcycles.

- **Addressing the Annual ATSSA Fly-in**

On May 1, Greg Cohen addressed the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) at its annual fly-in held at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC. ATSSA, The Highway Users, and the Roadway Safety Foundation have a number of members in common. Cohen discussed the congressional agenda for transportation in 2007 and long-term issues, including the next reauthorization bill and the work of the Commissions. He also discussed the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), its need for refinement, and its potential as a model for data-driven, performance-based programs in the next highway bill. ■

Upcoming Meetings

JULY 13, 2007

Board of Directors Meeting

Breakfast

8:30 to 9:00 am

Board Meeting

9:00 to 11:45 am

Luncheon with

Congressional staff

12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

SEPT. 25, 2007

2007 Forum on Highway Issues & 75th Annual Meeting

2007 Annual Meeting

10:00 am to 11:45 am

75th Anniversary Luncheon

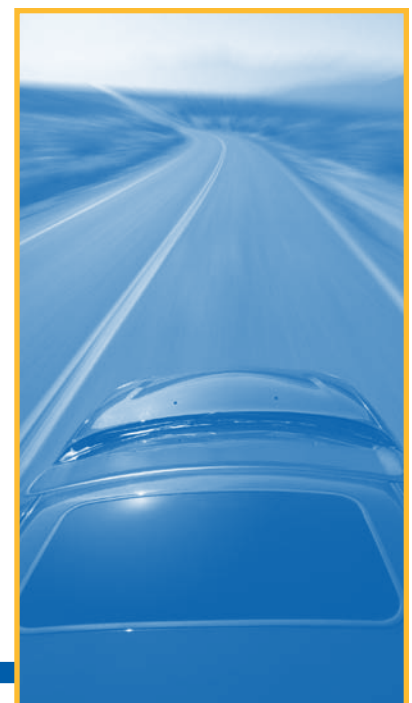
12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Issues Forum

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Congressional Reception
on the Hill

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm



Climate Change Policy...*Continued from page 1*

and Congressman Duncan expressed interest in the congestion relief program advocated by The Highway Users. Oberstar asked how to best develop such a performance-based system. Cohen responded by discussing metrics to evaluate and reward performance, such as evaluating metropolitan plans based on improvements in urban areas' travel time, and projects by travel time savings and carbon dioxide reductions per dollar spent.

Another key recommendation was to promote educational programs that increase awareness of how to reduce transportation emissions. Solutions include trip chaining, ride sharing, properly maintaining vehicles and tires, avoiding fuel purchases on hot days, telecommuting, and listening to traffic reports to avoid unnecessary delays.

We will work closely with both sides of the aisle to develop such a program. To read Cohen's full testimony, log onto www.highways.org. ■

Testifying on Public-Private Partnerships...

Continued from page 1

ers. However, he expressed concerns that some road leases have not been negotiated in the best long-term interests of motorists and/or may not even involve new construction. Cohen also warned that the U.S. Department of Transportation's promotion of PPPs may be intended to undercut potential funding proposals that would grow the federal-aid highway program and strengthen the national highway network.

In particular, he expressed reservations about long-term leases or "concession agreements" on existing toll roads. In general, public toll roads built in the United States were designed to provide a high-quality ride for the lowest possible toll. In many cases, tolls were instituted to pay for road construction, with the intention to remove tolls once major costs were repaid.

Under private operation, the mission of the toll road must change. If investors are seeking the highest possible returns, the new mission must be changed from maximizing the public good to maximizing profit for investors. Under such a scenario, tolls are raised regularly and the process may not be subject to public review. To read the full testimony, log onto www.highways.org. ■



(Left to right) ATA President & CEO Gov. Bill Graves, OOIDA Executive VP Todd Spencer, Highway Users President & CEO Greg Cohen, and Michael Replogle from Environmental Defense testified before the House Subcommittee on Highways & Transit on May 24.

Governor Bill Graves...

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In January 2003, Graves completed 22 years of public service in the state of Kansas, highlighted by two terms as governor. He was reelected to his second term with the largest percentage of votes in Kansas history. Under his administration, Kansas taxpayers saw the largest tax cut in state history, and many state services were streamlined.

Graves succeeded Fred Webber as Highway Users Chairman, following Webber's retirement from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. ■

Nominees for Board of Directors Seats

The Board of Directors will vote to offer seats to the following nominees at its meeting on July 13:

Bruce Andrews
VP – Government Affairs,
Ford Motor Company

Jim Braselton
Senior VP
Marketing and Sales
Lafarge North America –
Cement Division

Linda Bauer Darr
President & CEO
American Moving & Storage
Association

David K. McCurdy
President
Alliance of Automobile
Manufacturers

Full details will follow in the next issue of *Driving Ahead*. ■

Did You Know?

In 1934, Congress passed the Hayden-Cartwright Act, which provided emergency funding for urban and secondary farm-to-market roads, abolished limits on federal funding per mile of road, and declared congressional policy against the diversion of highway funds to non-highway purposes. ■

The American Highway Users Alliance is the broadest-based transportation coalition in Washington, DC, focused exclusively on promoting highway system performance, roadway safety improvements and freedom of mobility.