

DRIVING AHEAD

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A bi-monthly newsletter of the
American Highway Users Alliance

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FEDERAL FRONT

Highway Users Testifies on Hot Topic: Global Warming

On June 18, The Highway Users testified before the House Select Committee on Global Warming. The Committee asked for our views on “Smart Growth” strategies designed to encourage dense development and reduce vehicle-miles-of-travel (VMT). Smart growth advocates have convinced some lawmakers that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should take over transportation planning approvals and ensure that State and Metropolitan plans are designed to reduce VMT.

“ We encouraged the Committee to invest funding for greenhouse gas reductions into “win-win” solutions that preserve mobility, prosperity, and the rights of Americans to choose where they live and work. ”

Addressing the committee, Highway Users President and CEO Greg Cohen:

- Emphasized the importance of meeting highway needs
- Discussed the cost-effective approaches to reducing greenhouse gases
- Emphasized the value of congestion relief projects and operational improvements
- Pointed out the dangers of the most extreme VMT-reduction proposals
- Urged the Committee to reject new national “smart growth” planning mandates
- Promoted tax incentives for carbon-reducing vehicle and fuel technologies.

We encouraged the Committee to invest funding for greenhouse gas reductions into “win-win” solutions that preserve mobility, prosperity, and the rights of Americans to choose where they live and work. For a copy of the testimony, visit www.highways.org. ■

Highway Users PGA Committee Sketches Highway Policies for 2009

As in war, an effective strategy for victory is to “divide and conquer.” And, that is how The Highway Users Policy and Government Affairs (PGA) Committee is tackling the formidable task of formulating our 2009 highway reauthorization policies.

“Reducing congestion, improving safety, moving goods more efficiently, and building durability into our bridges and pavements – those are the four pillars of a dynamic proposal being developed by the PGA to authorize the next multi-year federal highway program. With the active, thoughtful participation of PGA members representing the broad range of organizations and interests that comprise The Highway Users, we’re putting a strong emphasis on improving the performance of the nation’s road network and instilling greater

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accountability in the federal program. I hope and expect the final product will allow The Highway Users to make a significant contribution to the upcoming congressional debate," PGA Committee Chairman Taylor Bowlden of 3M said. Nearly 35 member organizations are represented on the committee.

The chairmen of the PGA Committee Taskforces focusing on six policy areas are: *Congestion Relief* – Rob Dingess, Mercer Strategic; *Safety* – Taylor Bowlden, 3M; *Interstate Freight Movement* – Darrin Roth, American Trucking

Visit www.highways.org and use The Highway Users "Take Action Now" service to alert your Congressman to the need for a FY 2009 highway funding fix.

Associations; *Bridges and Pavement Quality* – John Sullivan, Portland Cement Association; *Funding* – Mike Joyce, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association; and *Streamlining* – Chester Jourdan, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. ■

Senate Battle Ahead After House Victory on Highway Trust Fund

On July 23rd, the House voted overwhelmingly in favor of legislation that bolstered the ailing Highway Trust Fund (HTF) with \$8 billion in general revenue, despite a White House veto threat. The bill passed by a vote of 387-37, or 91%.

With a shortfall expected in the Highway Trust Fund's Highway Account for fiscal year 2009, states could face federal funding cuts of approximately 34% — nearly \$14 billion. The \$8 billion that was restored to the HTF was transferred out of the fund in 1998. At the time, some felt that the Highway Account's \$16.5 billion reserve balance was too large, so Congress transferred funds to the General Fund. The transfer of \$8 billion funds is an intergovernmental matter that the Congressional Budget Office does not consider new spending.



American Trucking Associations Senior VP Tim Lynch addressed reporters, including CNN, at the National Press Club about the impact of rising fuel costs on the trucking industry.

The Highway Users has worked diligently on the Hill to urge support for this legislation. We issued a *Legislative Alert* on this pressing issue with tremendous response from our grassroots network. Overall, thousands of letters were sent to Congressional lawmakers to urge their support of the HTF as it faces a significant funding crisis in the upcoming fiscal year. The bill now moves to the Senate, and we will be counting on our grassroots supporters to urge their Senators to pass this bill. Thanks to all Highway Users members who contacted their Congressman. For more information, please contact us at 202.857.1200. ■

Responding to a Congressional Request on Fuel Prices

Highway Users President & CEO Greg Cohen is seeking examples of how high fuel prices are affecting our members. If you have any stories that you or your employees can share, email them to gregcohen@highways.org. We are seeking input at the request of the Senate Leadership. Your comments will be helpful. ■

Opposing Sen. Boxer's Cap-And-Trade Amendment

The Highway Users vigorously opposed the latest amendment to the Warner-Lieberman cap-and-trade bill, which included unprecedented anti-mobility provisions, increased fuel costs, diversion of funds from highways, and onerous planning mandates. The bill was withdrawn after a majority of Senators voted against wrapping up a heated Senate floor debate. We have offered to work with the climate bill supporters to make the changes needed to protect highway interests when this bill reappears in 2009. We will need our grassroots army to respond when another *Legislative Alert* calls members to action. ■

Leading a Call for Increased Oil Supply

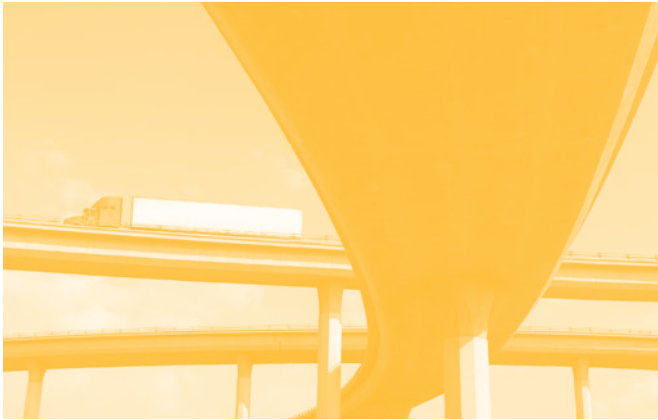
On June 24 along with several allies, including two members – the American Trucking Associations and The National Grange – The Highway Users called for Congress and the President to enact a comprehensive energy policy that includes more oil supply. At a press event, the groups urged Congress to approve more access to domestic resources and encourage the

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On the Road and Speaking Out

Numerous speaking engagements have enabled The Highway Users to appear before industry gatherings and special events. Following is a partial listing of our efforts to engage in dialogues on challenges facing an ailing Highway Trust Fund and opportunities to reduce highway congestion and increase the safety of our infrastructure:

- **Participating** in a reauthorization forum at the Cato Institute. (C-SPAN covered the speech on reforming the federal highway program by Highway Users President & CEO Greg Cohen)
- **Speaking** at the National Conference of State Legislatures' working group on transportation
- **Participating** in a Capitol Hill event hosted by the Americans for a Strong National Highway Network Coalition
- **Addressing** industry leaders at the Argus Asphalt Conference in Houston, TX, to advance highway priorities among hundreds of construction and asphalt industry attendees
- **Serving** on a panel at the 50th Anniversary of the American Society of Highway Engineers and discussing the contribution



of highways to future economic growth in America. Visit www.highways.org to view our presentation

- **Participating** in an Environment and Energy Study Institute event to discuss "smart growth" and its connection to carbon dioxide reduction
- **Debating** public-private partnerships in an event convened by the American Council of Engineering Companies
- **Celebrating** 100 years of highways in Maryland with the Maryland Highway Users Federation at a centennial celebration
- **Joining** the American Trucking Associations' unveiling of a "sustainable trucking" program at their press conference. Visit www.trucksdeliver.org to learn more
- **Promoting** mobility and the American Dream at a conference in Houston, TX
- **Encouraging** the development of energy supplies at the Consumer Energy Alliance Energy Day where Highway Users Project Manager Daisy Singh staffed our booth promoting lower fuel prices and increased supplies of highway fuels.

Contact Highway Users staffer Daisy Singh at daisysingh@highways.org, if you wish to invite Highway Users' participation in your event or activity. ■

What's Ahead

Upcoming Meeting

October 29, 2008:

Annual Meeting
Washington, DC

2008 Officers

Honorary Chairman

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Former Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation

Chairman

Governor Bill Graves
American Trucking Associations

Vice Chairman

Leslie J. Jezuit
Quixote Corporate

Treasurer

Roy Littlefield
Tire Industry Association

Chairman Emeritus

Michael J. Toohey
Livingston Group



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. The Highway Users was founded in 1932 as a not-for-profit organization.

Roadway Safety Foundation in High Gear

Efforts to launch a public education campaign are proceeding steadily with the help of an RSF Public Relations Taskforce that is meeting regularly to plan “Safer Roads: Building Safety into Your Drive.” The campaign is seeking applications from community groups that want to work with RSF to make roads in their communities safer. RSF’s grant funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will help fund the initiatives. Contact RSF Managing Director Cathy Gillen at cathygillen@roadwaysafety.org for details.



On another front, RSF is working with the FHWA to plan the 2009 National Roadway Safety Awards program that the two organizations will co-sponsor. Foundation staff are also gearing up for a total revamp of the RSF web site, www.roadwaysafety.org. The design, functionality, and content will be completely updated in the coming months. ■

Welcome to New Members

Thanks and welcome to: Maryland Asphalt Association – State Advocate Member; Mercedes-Benz, USA – Benefactor Member (through Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers); Pace Government Relations – State Highway Users Conference Affiliate; and Veridus, LLC – State Highway Users Conference Affiliate. ■

Member Orientation

Since the beginning of the year, staff have been introducing new key contacts among member organizations to the mission, goals and advocacy efforts of The Highway Users. A number of long-standing member organizations have seen changes among their leadership and other top management officials. To arrange for a briefing session for key staff, contact The Highway Users membership office at cherylhollins@highways.org. ■



In Memory

The Highway Users has lost two active supporters in 2008. The first, Jay Gleason, was The Highway Users former Vice President and member of the Board of Directors. A Past President of the Portland Cement Association, and long-standing member, Jay passed away at 66 on January 14 after a long battle with cancer. His guidance and insight is deeply missed.

On May 10, William J. Simon, a former employee of the Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility from 1948-1974 (The Highway Users’ predecessor organization), passed away at the age of 95. He had been an executive with a transportation consulting firm. ■

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production and use of oil from Canada, a friendly and highly reliable trading partner.

“Motorists, truckers, bus companies and recreational travelers are being hurt by the high cost of gas at the pump, which is a direct result of the current price of crude oil,” said Greg Cohen, President & CEO of The Highway Users. “Congress must come together, overcome partisanship, and increase the supply of oil so that these prices can come down. Americans are hurting enough! The situation is threatening jobs and America’s competitiveness in the global economy,” Cohen said. ■

Presenting Comments to the Transportation Finance Commission

We submitted comments to the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Highway Commission on its interim report, *The Path Forward*. Our recommendations covered such issues as: existing Highway Trust Fund sources; tolling and pricing; driver and vehicle taxes and fees; excise and other targeted taxes; broad-bases sources; freight and import sources; and other sources. To view our comments submitted on June 2, visit www.highways.org. ■

Preparing a Highway Primer – Get Involved in Distribution

In August, members should watch for the arrival of *The Road to Congress: How Highway Issues Can Strengthen Your Campaign*. The nearly 90-page primer on transportation issues has been completed for distribution to Congressional and the Presidential candidates. It contains ammunition and attention-grabbing statistics and voter-tested messages about the need for safer roads and bridges. Highway Users member organizations will receive at least one copy of the binder. If you are interested in distributing copies to your local candidates, contact Highway Users Project Manager Daisy Singh at daisysingh@highways.org. ■