

# DRIVING AHEAD

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American Highway Users Alliance

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## FEDERAL FRONT

### Highway Programs May Gain Up to \$12.8 Billion In Proposed Economic Recovery Bill

Congressional leaders are proposing an economic recovery package that could provide as much as \$12.8 billion in highway funding out of the General Fund of the Treasury. The House and Senate proposals are similar. The Senate proposal would include \$8 billion that would require a 20% state match, while the House proposal would provide \$12.8 billion in transportation funding with no required match. The Highway Users enthusiastically supports these efforts and will encourage Congress and the White House to enact the measure. Some have proposed calling lawmakers back after the elections to continue developing the stimulus package.

In related highway funding news, President Bush signed H.R. 6532 into law, which restored \$8 billion in highway user fees taken out of the fund ten years ago. This represents a major legislative victory for The Highway Users. President Bush is expected to sign the bill. Approval of this legislation is expected to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent for the remainder of the term of SAFETEA-LU, which expires on September 30, 2009. This action has been a critical lobbying, media, and grassroots legislative priority for The Highway Users this year. Thank you for supporting our efforts, particularly those who contacted their Senators and Congressmen and urged them to vote to restore highway funding. You made a huge difference! We are awaiting President-Elect Barack Obama's pick of Transportation Secretary and possible policy directions in the coming weeks. ■

### Educate Your Election Winners with The Road to Congress

As a Highway Users member, your organization or company should have received a complimentary copy of *The Road to Congress* binder. Additional free copies are available for those who schedule or attend meetings with incoming Congressmen. To follow-up, Highway Users intern Stephanie Kennard has been contacting members to inquire about their ability and willingness to meet their Members of Congress. *The Road to Congress* binder is THE must-have informational resource that candidates need to understand when facing key transportation issues in the 111th Congress. If you are interested in more copies or information on this critical educational tool, contact us at 202-857-1200. ■



**Engaging on Plans to Restrict Carbon Dioxide Emissions**

The Highway Users' PGA Committee met on November 6th to learn how our members are reacting to regulatory and legislative proposals to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The EPA issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to obtain comments on the potential application of the Clean Air Act to carbon dioxide. In addition, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-Mich) and Subcommittee Chairman Rick Boucher (R-Va) have proposed draft cap-and-trade legislation and have requested feedback from interested parties. We want to know what you think about these proposals and request



*Highway Users President & CEO Greg Cohen addresses Policy & Government Affairs (PGA) Committee members as PGA Chairman Taylor Boulden of 3M reviews his report.*

your involvement and input as we develop Highway Users' policy. The motoring public is a key stakeholder on this issue and we will aggressively lobby to protect our interests. Contact Greg Cohen to get involved as we develop our plans on this issue. ■

**Update on 2009 Authorization Policy Papers**

The Highway Users has made tremendous progress developing our 2009 authorization proposal for the next highway bill. Highway Users members at the 2008 Annual Meeting on October 29th gave the green light to staff to finalize the policies. The Planning & Government Affairs (PGA) Committee met multiple times over the summer to craft and edit the legislative proposal. The main subject areas include congestion relief, safety, freight

movement, bridges and pavement quality, funding, and streamlining. The Highway Users would like to extend a sincere thanks to all PGA Committee members and taskforce chairmen for their active and vital participation in this project. ■

**The denial to toll I-80 is a major victory for The Highway Users.**

**Request to Toll I-80 in Pennsylvania Denied**

The state of Pennsylvania's application to toll I-80 was struck down by the Federal Highway Administration, after The Highway Users and coalition partners in the "Americans for a Strong National Highway Network" coalition sent a letter opposing the application to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters. The Highway Users and coalition partners have urged Pennsylvania to focus on existing viable and equitable highway user fees, such as the fuel tax and vehicle registration fees, protected for highway use under the state constitution. The application to toll I-80 was found by FHWA to be in violation of strict federal requirements that block tolling on Interstates in most cases. The law requires that tolling be considered only as a last resort in order to pay for reconstruction of a seriously deficient Interstate Highway. But Interstate-80 happens to be in good condition and the tolls would have been used as a revenue-generating mechanism for statewide needs, including more subsidies for the ailing Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority transit system. In late August, Highway Users President & CEO Greg Cohen, along with AAA, American Motorcyclist Association, American Trucking Associations, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, and NATSO, met with Federal Highway Deputy Administrator Jim Ray about the issue. The denial of Pennsylvania's application to toll I-80 is a major victory for The Highway Users and its coalition partners. We will continue to promote additional fair and protected highway user revenue to improve Pennsylvania's aging road and bridge network. ■

## INSIDE HIGHWAY USERS



Susan Binder of the Senate EPW Committee (majority) addressed attendees at the 2008 Annual Meeting as (l to r) Vice Chairman Les Jezuit, President & CEO Greg Cohen, Chairman Gov. Bill Graves and Honorary Chairman Secy. Norman Mineta listen.

Michael Baker Corporation President & CEO Brad Mallory gave a presentation entitled, "Transportation Infrastructure: Let Us Build Solutions on Principles, Not Myths." He gave the keynote address during the Annual Meeting luncheon on October 29th at the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC.

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.

### 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

## FEDERAL FRONT



Highway Users President & CEO Greg Cohen listens as Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) President David Holt addresses the crowd at CEA Energy Forum on September 15, 2008 in the Cannon House Office Building.

Rep. Adam Putnam (R-FL) was among a host of Congressional lawmakers who spoke about the importance of developing alternative energy options in the face of increasing gas prices.



### Harold Gray - RIP

Former National Highway Users Conference employee (beginning in the 1930s) Harold Gray passed away on November 5, 2008, five weeks after his 101st birthday. He headed the regional services staff which formed the State Highway User Conferences in the states. June 5th is Harold Gray Day in DC, in honor of his many civic contributions to the city. Gray suffered pulmonary failure at Sibley Hospital in Washington, DC. The Highway Users extends deep sympathy to Gray's family and loved ones. ■



## New Grassroots Outreach Program

The Highway Users is gearing up for a vibrant new outreach program in 2009 to boost our grassroots army of advocates and increase our effectiveness. The new program will be critical for mobilizing action as The Highway Users focuses on the revamping of multi-billion dollar highway reauthorization that will be addressed in the next Congress.

### The new multi-pronged program contains four key components:

- **Revision of the State Highway Users Conference (HUC) dues** structure that is more equitable with an annual flat fee rate of \$500. This new structure significantly reduces the national financial dues burden on HUCs that are financially challenged on the state level.
- **Expansion of the HUC structure to form other regional groups** that will forcefully carry The Highway Users message to state and local organizations, thus increasing our outreach and effectiveness.
- **Two new initiatives in 2009** that include: “Advocacy Grants” which will be awarded to HUCs to help fund local efforts on issues of regional and national interest to the HUC and The Highway Users, and a new “Advocates in Action” Honors Program that will recognize exemplary local efforts and accomplishments.
- **Introduction of a national level Grassroots Sponsorship Program** that will support development costs, expansion of the outreach efforts, and fund the new advocacy grants and honors programs.

Details will be mailed to all members. Meanwhile, explore what is involved. For more information about how such a mutual commitment can work regionally and locally as well as nationally, contact Cheryl Hollins, Membership Director, at 202-857-1200 or at [cherylhollins@highways.org](mailto:cherylhollins@highways.org). ■

### Grassroots Sponsors Sought *Invest in Advocacy Effectiveness*

- **Build** The Highway Users’ collective strength!
- **Grow** our Grassroots Outreach to address key public policy issues!
- **Enjoy** unique benefits for contributors!

For more details, contact Cheryl Hollins at 202.857.1200 at [cherylhollins@highways.org](mailto:cherylhollins@highways.org). Ask about the benefits package and suggested contribution levels. ■

## First Returns on HUC Investment

With the recent revamping of The Highway Users state conference and grassroots outreach dues structure, we are pleased to welcome 29 new members to our community. Thanks go to the Oklahoma Highway Users Federation for affiliating all of their members with our national efforts:

*A.B.A.T.E. of Oklahoma*  
*American Concrete Pavement Assn. – OK/AR*  
*American Farmers & Ranchers*  
*Mutual Insurance Co.*  
*Association of County Commissioners*  
*of Oklahoma*  
*Association of Oklahoma General*  
*Contractors, Inc.*  
*Cobb Engineering Company*  
*Common Cause of Oklahoma*  
*Conoco Phillips*  
*IBC Bank*  
*Jacobs Carter Burgess*  
*MacArthur Associated Consultants*  
*Metropolitan Automobile Dealers Association*  
*Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association*  
*of Oklahoma*  
*Oklahoma County React*  
*Oklahoma Department of Transportation*  
*Oklahoma Farm Bureau*  
*Oklahoma Municipal League*  
*Oklahoma Petroleum Marketers &*  
*Convenience Store Assn.*  
*Oklahoma Safety Council*  
*Oklahoma State Grange*  
*Oklahoma Traffic Engineering Association*  
*Organized Internet Automobile*  
*Dealers Association*  
*Rural Enterprises, Inc. of Oklahoma*  
*S-P-I-R-I-T*  
*Southwest Passage for Transportation*  
*Tetra Tech FHC*  
*The Behman Companies*  
*Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce*  
*Turnpike Transit, Inc. ■*