

DRIVING AHEAD

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A bi-monthly newsletter of the
American Highway Users Alliance

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FEDERAL FRONT

Transportation Appropriations Face Presidential Veto

On November 14, the House voted 270 - 147 to pass the Conference Report on 2008 Transportation Appropriations. In total, 64.7% voted in support of the bill, which is just shy of the 2/3 majority needed to override a threatened veto from President Bush. If the President vetoes the bill, we need to get a few more votes to override him! Importantly, 18 Congressmen did not vote on November 14. The President wants lower funding levels for highways and other transportation programs. To see how your Congressman voted, log onto <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll1102.xml>.

We need an overwhelming Senate vote before the bill is sent to the President. Every Highway Users member can help our efforts by contacting their Senators today! As of press time, dozens of Highway Users grassroots supporters have emailed their Senators.

As we have reported before, the House and Senate came together in support of almost every request from The Highway Users: They fully funded SAFETEA-LU highway programs at \$40.2 billion, added an additional \$1 billion in bridge funding, fully funded highway vehicle safety programs from the general fund (saving the trust fund \$631 million), eliminated a terrible House provision designed to reduce the States' ability to hold highway programs harmless from budget cuts, and reduced earmarking. To email your Senator on this vital funding issue, log onto www.highways.org. ■



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issue, log onto www.highways.org.

CAFE Compromise Negotiated

Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Dingell (D-MI) have negotiated a new House provision on Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE). Although it hasn't been possible to get a copy of the bill language, news reports indicate that the two have agreed that NHTSA should regulate separate CAFE standards for cars and trucks, with total fuel economy stepping up to an average of 35 miles per gallon by 2020. It is unclear what additional provisions would be considered in a House vote on the issue, what role EPA will eventually play in the regulations, how the Senate will react to the House agreement, and whether these provisions will be packaged into

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CAFE Compromise ... Continued from page 1

the full energy bill or smaller energy package prior to enactment. The Highway Users extends our thanks to thousands of members, allies, and grassroots activists who have reached out to their contacts and helped us support the Hill/Terry CAFE bill, the most popular CAFE legislation in the House of Representatives to date. ■

Energy Bill Provisions Disproportionately Hit Commercial Transportation

Research firm CRA International issued a report examining the economic impacts of specific provisions contained in either the House or Senate energy bills. Among the key findings were an estimated five million job losses by 2030, a projected GDP drop of 4% and an estimated loss in average household real income of roughly \$1,700 per household. A surprising finding was that the commercial transportation sector is projected to be much more significantly impacted than energy intensive sectors or electric generation, with a 20.6% increase in end-user costs of goods and services. The Highway Users opposed the Senate-passed version of the energy bill, and we have expressed concerns about the lack of support for reducing fuel costs in both the House and Senate bills. ■

Highway Users Supports Bridge Rehab Bill

The Highway Users met with House T&I Committee Democratic staff on November 8 to discuss Chairman Oberstar's bridge funding bill. We are pleased that the final version contains an authorization for appropriations of \$2 billion over two years in General Funds. Chairman Oberstar also issued a statement of support for the appropriators' decision to add \$1 billion in bridge

funds for FY 2008. No new user fees are included in either Oberstar's bridge bill or the appropriations bill. ■

Updating the National Household Transportation Survey

The National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) is the only comprehensive survey of Americans' transportation habits, and serves as a detailed "Census-like" tool, critical in helping policymakers understand mobility. On November 29, we attended a meeting hosted by AAA and organized by "Commuting in America" author Alan Pisarski, to discuss the need for a new 2008 NHTS. Unfortunately, the Department of Transportation has not identified enough research funding to get this critical study underway. The Highway Users agreed to help provide assistance with lobbying to fully fund the survey by February 2008 in order to have the data available for reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU highway bill in 2009. ■

The Highway Users extends our thanks to thousands of members, allies, and grassroots activists who have reached out to their contacts and helped us support the Hill/Terry CAFE bill.

Weighing User Fee Options with T&I Chairman Oberstar, Ranking Member Mica

The Highway Users and other members of Americans for a Strong National Highway Network met with House T&I Committee Chairman Jim Oberstar (D-MN) on November 1 to discuss the Chairman's views on tolling, public private partnerships, and future user fee revenues to the Highway Trust Fund from gasoline, diesel, and truck fees. On November 6, we also met in Ranking Member John Mica's (R-FL) office to gain a better understanding of the Republican transportation leader's views. We have been very pleased by the comments on both sides of the aisle. Over the next year, we will ramp up efforts to keep tolling and PPPs focused on new roads and new capacity. ■





• Recognizing Lifesavers at the Roadway Safety Awards

On November 7, the Roadway Safety Foundation (RSF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) held its 4th successful biennial awards ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. A total of 15 local programs from 12 states across the country received national awards for excellence and innovation in operations, planning and roadway design to reduce fatalities and injuries on our nation's highways. National Roadway Safety Award recipients were evaluated on three criteria – innovation, effectiveness, and efficient use of resources. Program categories included infrastructure improvements, operational improvements and program planning, development and evaluation. The award recipients were selected from 61 entries received. Press coverage of the awards was received in several newspapers, trade journals and websites across the country including the *St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press*; *Sioux City (IA) Journal*; *Burlington (VT) Free Press*; *Pekin (IL) Daily Times*; *Bloomington (IL) Pantagraph*; *AASHTO Journal*; *Transportation Communications Newsletter*; and on WMBD/WYZZ television in Illinois. Log onto www.roadwaysafety.org to review the best practices of these worthy roadway safety honorees. ■



2007 National Safety Award winners at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on November 7. RSF Executive Director Greg Cohen is at the far right.

• RSF Touts Top Accomplishments

RSF has had a busy year with many exciting, new projects under way. To summarize the first full year under the safety grant, the organization has compiled its top achievements in a report. With the addition of new Managing Director Cathy Gillen to outstanding press coverage of the National Safety Awards, RSF will be accelerating its activities in the coming year. If you are not a member of RSF, contact us at 202.857.1200 for a copy of the *RSF Accomplishments Report*. If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation before the end of the year, please send your check to the "Roadway Safety Foundation" 1101 – 14th Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20005. RSF is a 501(c)(3) charitable and education organization. Log onto www.roadwaysafety.org for more details about RSF. ■

2007 Accomplishments Report

With the final issue of *Driving Ahead* for the year, The Highway Users has enclosed its *2007 Accomplishments Report*. It highlights the top legislative successes on key issues such as highway funding and CAFE, and details the most prominent media coverage as well. It has been a busy 75th anniversary year, and The Highway Users thanks you for your support. See how your membership dues dollars and contributions were put to good work! ■

New Members Welcomed

The Highway Users is pleased to announce that the American Petroleum Institute has joined The Highway Users. API joins as a Sustaining Member. Visit them at www.api.org. In addition, the Maritime Consultants of the Pacific ([www. Maritime-Consultants.com](http://www.Maritime-Consultants.com)) is a new affiliate member of the Hawaii Highway Users Alliance, whose membership is very active in local and state transportation issues. Thanks to each for their support. ■



2008 Board of Directors

Members of the Highway Users elected several new members of the Board of Directors for the coming year reported in the previous issue of *Driving Ahead*. Following is a consolidated list of newly-elected and continuing Board members for 2008.



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



2007 Chairman
Governor Bill Graves *
President & CEO
 American Trucking Associations

Bruce Andrews
Vice President of Governmental Affairs
 Ford Motor Company

Phillip D. Brady
President
 National Automobile Dealers Association

James A. Braselton
Senior Vice President – Marketing & Sales
 Lafarge in North America Cement Division

Kenneth W. Cole *
Vice President, Public Relations
 General Motors Corporation

Richard Coon *
President
 Recreation Vehicle Industry Association

Josephine S. Cooper *
Group VP, Government & Industry Affairs
 Toyota Motor North America, Inc.

Linda Bauer Darr
President & CEO
 American Moving and Storage Association

Kemper Freeman
President
 Bellevue Square Managers Division of Kemper Development Company

Richard L. Hanneman
President
 Salt Institute

Thomas F. Jensen
Public Affairs Manager
 United Parcel Service

Leslie J. Jezuit *
Chairman and CEO
 Quixote Corporation

Larry L. Lair *
Vice President, Traffic Safety Systems
 3M

Roy Littlefield *
Executive Vice President
 Tire Industry Association

Dave McCurdy
President & CEO
 Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

Robert McKenna *
President & CEO
 Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association

Peter Pantuso *
President & CEO
 American Bus Association

Scott Rowe *
VP, Asphalt Marketing & General Manager
 CITGO Asphalt Refining Company

Todd Spencer
Executive Vice President
 Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

Luke Stango *
Eastern Region Sales & Marketing Manager
 Chevron

William A. Steel
President
 National Grange

Michael J. Toohey *
 Livingston Group

** Also member of Executive Committee*



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.

Seasons Greetings!

During this holiday season, we want to say thank you for your support of The Highway Users in 2007. As members, you are the heart of our organization, and your participation is appreciated by all of us — The Highway Users' Officers, Board of Directors, and staff. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and many successful endeavors in the New Year.