

- **Advocacy to Improve SAFETEA-LU**

The Highway Users government affairs staff worked closely with Congress on a technical corrections bill to correct funding shortages that remain two years after passage of the SAFETEA-LU highway bill. Corrections add funding for the surface transportation commission, FHWA research and statistical reports, and University funding for transportation research. Although the federal highway bill passed in August 2005, technical mistakes created funding gaps for these critical research initiatives and Congress has been slow to come up with the necessary funds. The Highway Users is pressing for a corrections bill by the end of the year.

- **Promoting Sensible Energy Legislation Reduces Fuel Prices**

As fuel prices rose this year, The Highway Users supported a bill that passed the House of Representatives to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska for oil and gas development. The Highway Users advocated exploring the untapped area to lessen dependence on foreign oil supplies. Separately, both the House and the Senate passed bills to expand outer continental shelf drilling to help generate more domestic sources of fuel. A lame duck resolution is possible. Highway Users staff is working closely with lawmakers on this important and timely issue.

- **Reforming Environmental Laws to Improve Highways AND Protect Resources**

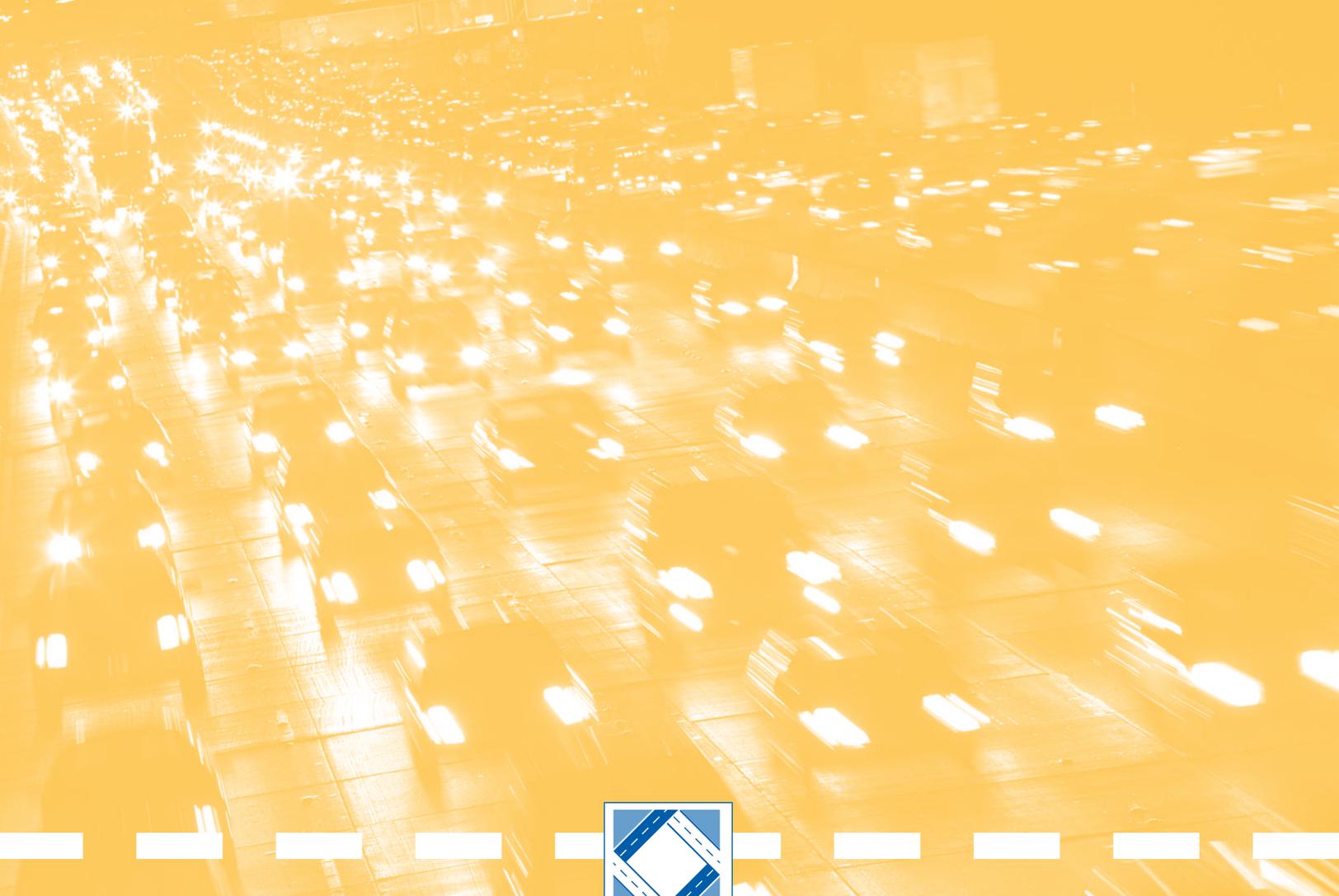
The Highway Users participated in working group meetings of the House Resources Committee's task force to reform the outmoded NEPA policy, which needlessly ties up urgent road and highway projects. The Committee began examining problems with NEPA, after we were successful in convincing Congress to begin streamlining the NEPA process for transportation projects. Also, the House passed a bipartisan bill to reform and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Highway Users staff issued *Legislative Alerts* to our grassroots members who responded aggressively and contacted their respective lawmakers to support the ESA bill. Unfortunately, there has been little progress on ESA reform in the Senate.



We provided in-depth comments on several DOT regulatory proposals: Planning, Rulemaking, Environmental Guidance, and Rulemaking on 4(f) Parkland Policy.

- **Weighing in on Regulations that Impact Highway Users**

We have not missed opportunities to influence the environmental, planning, and related regulations that have been proposed in response to SAFETEA-LU streamlining victories. We provided in-depth comments on several DOT regulatory proposals: Planning, Rulemaking, Environmental Guidance, and Rulemaking on 4(f) Parkland Policy. In addition, we offered supportive comments on the Mineral Management Services five-year plan to open areas of the Outer Continental Shelf to oil and gas development. ■



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2006 Year-to-Date Accomplishments Report

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2006

More Money for Roads in 2007

...The Highway Users also led an industry coalition to raise awareness of Highway Trust Fund shortages and fight raids on the fund.

Both House and Senate appropriators approved legislation increasing funding by 9.4% for the federal-aid highway program in 2007. The record-high \$39.8 billion appropriation followed lobbying from The Highway Users to keep the promise Congress made in 2005 to annually guarantee funding increases. As part of our advocacy for greater highway funding, The Highway Users also led an industry coalition to raise awareness of Highway Trust Fund shortages and fight raids on the fund. We beat back a first-ever Bush Administration proposal to fund non-highway related National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) out of the Highway Trust Fund instead of the general fund. It was a hard fought battle, but appropriators sided with our stance. House and Senate transportation appropriations bills are expected to be reconciled and signed into law before the end of the calendar year.

Evacuation Report Card Study Wakes America Up to Highway Needs

The release event at the National Press Club was carried live on C-SPAN and within 24 hours, we garnered over 300 broadcast media hits around the nation.

This year, with sponsorship support from the American Bus Association, we released groundbreaking research to evaluate evacuation capacity of the nation's largest urban areas. The report was a first-of-its-kind study examining the physical infrastructure of large urban cities and their outlying areas. The study makes the case that increased highway capacity, more automobile ownership, and well-conceived operations planning are urgently needed throughout the nation.

The release event at the National Press Club was carried live on C-SPAN and within 24 hours, we garnered over 300 broadcast media hits around the nation. Highway Users President & CEO was interviewed live on both MSNBC TV and Fox News. Coverage of the report reached millions of viewers and readers in the US and around the world. Preliminary estimates show the Evacuation Report Card garnered more media attention than any other Highway Users study. To access the full study, log onto www.highways.org.



Mineta Becomes Honorary Chairman of The Highway Users

This fall, former Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta volunteered to serve as Honorary Chairman of The Highway Users through the next highway reauthorization cycle. Citing his interest in remaining active in congestion relief and safety policy and The Highway Users' public interest approach to advocacy, Mineta agreed that the organization is a good fit for him. Secretary Mineta remarked, "I have dedicated my professional career to transportation and this honorary position will allow me to remain highly involved in highway policy as a private citizen. I am impressed by the public interest focus of The Highway Users advocacy campaigns. Their top issues are making our nation's roads and bridges safer and less congested. These were also my top priorities for surface transportation as Secretary of Transportation." For The Highway Users, Mineta's high profile leadership will increase our effectiveness on Capitol Hill and add to the organization's reputation as the authority on highway issues. ■



POLICY & LEGISLATION

The Highway Users has been invited to submit policy recommendations to the Transportation Policy & Revenue Commission.

- **Preparing Early for the 2009 Highway Reauthorization**

The 2005 federal highway bill (SAFETEA-LU) has garnered negative publicity over earmarked projects and a perception of waste. The public and media impressions of the program are an extremely serious concern as Highway Trust Fund (HTF) balances drop and State fears of funding reductions cause programming for long-term highway projects to dry up. The current financial situation of the HTF requires a user fee increase or funding will be severely cut. But the public must have a better image of the federal highway program before they will agree to any increases. The Highway Users has already begun to meet with key Congressional lawmakers and stakeholders on the need for "reform" and "national purpose" of the program, and these calls have received a great deal of support.

- **Developing Policy for the Surface Transportation Commission**

The Highway Users has been invited to submit policy recommendations for highway needs and revenue solutions. The Transportation Policy & Revenue Commission has been compared to the Clay Commission 50 years ago, whose recommendations led to the creation of the Interstate Highway System. We have formed a working subgroup of our Policy & Government Affairs Committee, which convened to outline and refine a presentation for the Surface Transportation Commission. Our presentation is being designed to convince commissioners to recommend a national highway system that sharply reduces congestion, eliminates unnecessary deaths and injuries through investment in roadway safety, and prioritizes freight mobility for the long-term economic growth of the nation. We also will suggest financing options that strengthen the Highway Trust Fund and are suitable for solving both national and local needs.

- **Honoring *Highway Heroes***

The Highway Users honored Rep. James L. Oberstar (D-MN), the incoming chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, with a Highway Hero Award in June and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) in October. The award honors lawmakers who are dedicated to improving highway policy for safer, less congested roads. Past honorees include former DOT Secretary Norman Mineta, current DOT Secretary Mary Peters, Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), and Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA).



Rep. Oberstar (D-MN) received a Highway Hero Award from President and CEO Greg Cohen

- **Publicly Endorsing Key DOT Nominees**

The Highway Users sent letters to the Senate and press releases to the media advocating the nominations of Rick Capka to be the Federal Highway Administration Administrator, and Mary Peters to become the US DOT Secretary of Transportation. The *New York Times* was among the many media outlets that carried our endorsement, and both nominees clinched their positions.





- **Highway Users Invited to Weigh Highway Users Fee Increases on CNBC**

In January, the CNBC morning program "Squawk Box" invited President & CEO Greg Cohen to debate the need to increase the "gas tax." Cohen made the case that Congress should begin considering an increase in highway user fees, if the revenue is carefully directed to improve mobility and safety on our nation's stressed highways. Squawk Box is CNBC's flagship program, whose target audience is C-suite decision-makers. The show has an estimated audience of 185,000.

- **New "Highway Users in Action" Periodic Briefing Launched**

The Highway Users launched *Highway Users in Action*, a periodic email which features the latest Highway Users activities and calls to action. The posting is designed to keep Highway Users members better apprised of how their dues are being spent. It also serves as a regular notification for members of important legislative activities. A key component to the e-update is invitations to participate in pressing legislative & grassroots issues.

- **Web Site Upgrades**

This year, The Highway Users continuously upgraded its web site, www.highways.org. Now the home page features numerous resources including daily news headlines, the latest Transportation Research Board research and a new *Federal Register* section. The new sections were created to keep web visitors and Highway Users members better apprised of breaking news and legislative developments affecting industry groups and transportation stakeholders. ■

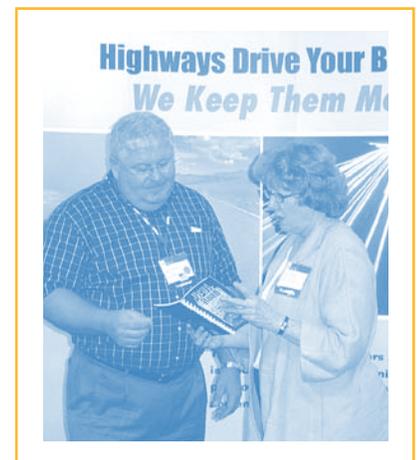
MEMBERSHIP

- **New Member Growth in 2006**

30 businesses and associations have joined our ranks this year. Half of these new members signed on as a result of a pilot membership recruitment campaign targeting nine specific industries. Some of the most notable new members this year were the Associated General Contractors of America, International Council of Shopping Centers, and Parsons Brinckerhoff transportation consultants.

- **Marketing Efforts Expand to Trade Shows**

The Highway Users exhibited at the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting & Exposition in Nashville, TN in August. Contacts were made with 150 state lawmakers at the show. Attendees included key legislators, senior legislative staff, state and federal agency personnel, and government relations managers. The Highway Users also exhibited at the SEMA Show 2006, the premier automotive specialty products trade event in the world, which attracts more than 100,000 attendees. The Highway Users would like to thank the Tire Industry Association for donating booth space at the show. ■



State Rep. Eddie Yokley (D) of the 11th District of Tennessee learns about the road signs described in Read Your Road from Membership Director Cheryl Hollins.

ROADWAY SAFETY FOUNDATION



- **RSF Awarded Major Public Road Safety Grant**

On September 20, the Federal Highway Administration awarded the Roadway Safety Foundation (RSF) with a major safety grant valued at nearly \$1.72 million over four years. The grant enables RSF to launch critical road safety programs and public awareness initiatives. RSF competed with other national nonprofit organizations and universities to receive the grant. The American Highway Users Alliance chartered RSF in 1995 and Highway Users staff contributes time to RSF initiatives. ■

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS & SEMINARS

- **Evacuation Study Brings Highway Users Voice to More than 100 Million Americans**

The media coverage of The Highway Users *Emergency Evacuation Report Card* was truly overwhelming. Hundreds of media interviews for television, internet, radio, and print media made it clear to the American public that good highways are essential for homeland security as well as everyday transportation needs. Our study also promoted the essential role of the private bus industry in evacuation operations. The study gave an "F" for evacuation capability to 20 of the nation's largest 37 cities.



We gathered fascinating panels of experts to discuss how Automobility contributes to quality-of-life, employment opportunity, and economic growth.

- **Automobility in America Seminar**

Dozens of transportation professionals and reporters attended The Highway Users educational seminar on mobility and automobile ownership. We gathered fascinating panels of experts to discuss how automobility contributes to quality-of-life, employment opportunity, and economic growth. Specifically, speakers examined traffic trends affected by demographic shifts, automobile access for disadvantaged populations, and the value of reliable energy to feed economic growth. The seminar was a broad, expansive look at the role of transportation in our society and its impact on people and different industries.

- **LA Traffic Bottlenecks on CBS Radio & KNBC TV**

In January, The Highway Users was asked to give its take on Los Angeles perpetual traffic problems. Highway Users President & CEO Greg Cohen endorsed bottleneck relief, intelligent transportation, and additional highway capacity. KNBC TV ran a feature story on the issue with Cohen's commentary on potential solutions to LA's unrelenting traffic woes. CBS Radio in LA also sought The Highway Users' opinion on LA's congestion. Hundreds of thousands of viewers and listeners heard both interviews. ■