



Feel the Power

America's Roads and Bridges Need a Raise

The U.S. highway system marveled the world when it was built as a response to the nation's security needs. Today it has fallen into disrepair and is stretched beyond capacity to the point where it is no longer functional in many regions. Without the same visionary leadership and national will that created our highway system, America's ability to compete in the global economy will be crippled.

The U.S. economy is dependent on surface transportation – \$1 of every \$10 of the gross domestic product is tied to moving goods and people. Yet, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, 170,000 miles of our roads are in poor condition.

- “Traffic congestion costs commuters and businesses \$170 billion a year due to 4 billion hours in delays, the DOT's chief economist has determined. The cost is growing at twice the rate of the economy, placing a significant drag on competitiveness.
- Motorists pay on average \$710 every year for gas they waste due to traffic congestion, which also increases our reliance on foreign oil.

Deteriorating roads are a threat to public safety and to our quality of life.

- According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, roadway conditions are a significant factor in about one-third of traffic fatalities.
- Rush hour has doubled in urban areas from three to six hours. In 1982, Los Angeles was the only urban area in the U.S. where commuters lost 40 or more hours a year to traffic delays. Now, 28 urban areas face those conditions.

Bringing our highways up to par would create more than 1 million jobs a year and leave behind real assets for future generations – but investment is needed.

- LIUNA is open to any practical options to address the crisis facing our infrastructure; including a National Infrastructure Bank and public-private partnerships provided that labor standards are a key and enforceable part of the financing mechanism.
- Adjusting the gas tax, which funds our Highway Trust Fund and hasn't been raised since 1993, remains one of the most realistic and sustainable solutions.