

Talking Points for Congressional Visits

Here are some points and facts to use during the facility tour to help get our industry's message out on the need for a fully-funded multi-year reauthorization bill.

The construction equipment industry is in a depression

- The industry has lost 37 percent of our workforce.
 - The **550,000** jobs lost is more than the auto and financial sectors combined.

The stimulus package didn't help

- Only **3.5 percent** of the stimulus package was for roads and bridges.
 - Most of this money resulted in minor projects, such as repaving, which didn't cause contractors to invest in new equipment.

Extensions only add to the uncertainty

- State departments of transportation can't properly plan for major projects that take several years without a 5-6 year highway bill that gives them the necessary certainty.
- Without the ability to plan for these major projects, contractors lack the confidence needed to invest in new equipment and rehire laid-off construction workers.

We support a gas tax increase to pay for the bill

- But only if 100 percent of the money goes back into roads and bridges.
- The tax hasn't been increased since the early 1990's and can no longer provide for the maintenance, let alone the upgrading, of our transportation system.

Investing in our infrastructure is REAL, sustainable short AND long-term stimulus

- For every \$1 billion spent on transportation infrastructure 35,000 jobs are created.
- Beyond the jobs creation and increased demand for my company's products, we gain long-term efficiencies that increase our global competitiveness.
 - For example, in 2004 commercial trucks, which we depend on to move our products to market, lost 243 million hours due to traffic delay costing our economy \$7.8 billion.
 - Also, annually commuters in major metropolitan areas waste 4.2 billion hours annually stuck in traffic – costing at least \$87 billion each year in lost productivity and wasted fuel.