



TRANSPORTATION COALITION HIGHLIGHTS INCREASING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AT ANDERSON COUNTY MEETING

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee’s current level of funding for transportation and infrastructure needs is no longer sufficient. Private citizens, state and local officials, and business leaders need to come together to find a solution or risk the safety of motorists and the state’s economic vitality.

“If we continue to ignore our deteriorating infrastructure, we put motorists at risk and hinder our ability to take advantage of economic expansion,” said Susie Alcorn, Executive Director of the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance at a meeting in Anderson County.

Governor Bill Haslam and state Commissioner of Transportation John Schroer recently toured the state, pointing to some \$6.1 billion in approved but unfunded road projects and another \$5.3 billion in proposed new projects that could not be started until at least 2022 with transportation funding at its current level. At existing funding levels, getting contracts started on the current backlog of projects could take up to 17 years.

“It’s time for Tennessee to take control of this problem at the state level and put funding mechanisms in place to meet existing and future transportation demands,” Alcorn said.

In her presentation, Alcorn highlighted the problem with the following projects in Anderson County:

- I-75 Goat Ridge, north of Clinton. Install ITS instrumentation and communications on I-75 at SR 61 (Andersonville Highway, Exit 122) interchange \$500,000
- Old State Circle Bridge over Bull Run Creek, \$2.4 million
- State Route 61/State Highway 61 Bridge over Brushy Creek, \$2.2 million

State and local transportation projects in Tennessee are funded primarily by state and federal fuel tax revenues. These projects include maintenance, repair and new construction. Tennessee’s fuel taxes have not changed since 1989, yet the state’s population has increased 14 percent since 2000, bringing more traffic to roads and highways.

ABOUT THE TRANSPORTATION COALITION OF TENNESSEE

The Transportation Coalition of Tennessee was created to educate the public and state legislators as it seeks an increase of and reform in Tennessee's transportation fees. The coalition aims to recruit other interested parties to join in seeking a comprehensive funding solution to maintain and expand Tennessee's critical transportation system.

Participants in the Transportation Coalition of Tennessee include businesses, citizens, community leaders, public officials and organizations that are interested in continuing Tennessee's transportation infrastructure for the long haul.

The Transportation Coalition steering committee includes representatives from the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance, Auto Club Group/AAA Tennessee, Tennessee Public Transportation Association, Tennessee Trucking Association, Tennessee County Highway Officials Association, Tennessee Municipal League, Tennessee City Management Association, American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee and Tennessee Road Builders Association.

Tennessee is a pay-as-you-go state, with transportation projects funded primarily by state and federal fuel tax revenues. The dollars are apportioned for state and local projects, which include maintenance, repair and new construction.

For more information or to join the Transportation Coalition of Tennessee, visit the website at www.TransportationCoalitionTN.org.

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