

Transcript of Remarks made during the April 22nd Senate Session
By Senator Jim Tracy
April 22, 2015 | 2:30 p.m.
1:51:19 to 1:53

Members I want you to listen to this statement cause it has to do with transportation in Tennessee...something that's going to happen over the summer and the fall and I wanted you to be aware of it. Everyone knows probably in this chamber that transportation from the federal level has not been coming through; they don't have a transportation bill.

We know we need to ensure our roads and highways are safe for our residents. We need to ensure that we are not only maintaining but also expand the transportation system to continue our superb economic environment that we have in Tennessee. It is a fact that Tennessee's infrastructure provides us right now with a competitive edge in economic recruitment and retention. Infrastructure is a factor as industry expands. Today, system enhancements by TDOT are in jeopardy because the lack of funding.

Commissioner Schroer says we have a backlog of \$6 billion dollars in backlogs. And local roads and bridges, [and it's] hundreds of million dollars there.

Our current funding system hasn't been changed since 1989. In that time, our population has grown, traffic is up, and we've seen the introduction of new technologies for vehicles such as all vehicles now use less fuel than they did 25 years ago.

I am looking forward to having this conversation with the governor, my colleagues and other Tennesseans who care about the future of our transportation infrastructure. And looking forward to working with the General Assembly next year to look for a solution to our transportation infrastructure funding problems.

I want to announce that I will be holding a series of legislative hearings in late summer or early fall really all over the state, we are going to travel all over and do a comprehensive solution to fund the long-term needs of transportation system. I expect to announce a schedule for the hearings I want to invite all of the senators in the area when we come and invite all the concerned citizens about that. Thank you Mr. Speaker for letting me announce.