

Interesting Graphics on Condition of Roads and Bridges

Larry Adams

7/22/2014 9:40 AM

To: Brewer City Council; Brewer City Manager; Councilor Beverly Uhlenhake; Councilor Joseph Ferris; Councilor Kevin O'Connell; Deputy Mayor Matthew Vachon; Mayor Jerry W. Goss; Eddington Board of Selectman and Town Manager; Carol Woodcock / U.S. Senator Susan Collins; Elizabeth Montgomery Schneider MacTaggart / U.S. Senator Angus King; Representative Arthur Verow - District #21; Representative David Johnson - District#20; Rosemary Winslow / U.S. Congressman Mike Michaud; Senator Edward Youngblood - District#31;

Cc: personal addresses redacted

Congress Should Have Courage to Make Our Roads and Bridges Safe, Protect Jobs, By Fixing the Highway Trust Fund Crisis

Washington, D.C. (July 15, 2014) – Terry O'Sullivan, General President of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – made the following statement today regarding the passage of a short-term patch to the Highway Trust Fund in the U.S. House:

While America should be relieved that Congress appears to be moving to prevent a complete collapse of the Highway Trust Fund next month, law-makers have no excuses for abdicating their responsibility to pass a long-term, full-investment bill.

The direction Congress is moving does nothing to address the safety of motorists, jobs at risk and economic competitiveness. One in four of our nation's bridges will remain deficient or obsolete. Poor road conditions will continue to contribute to a third of traffic fatalities – about 10,000 lives needlessly lost each year.

There is still time to pass a long-term reauthorization this year, but Congress needs the courage to get past politics, to find the ability to lead and to develop the will to make our roads and bridges safe by fixing them – not duct-taping them.

While a number of members of Congress have had the courage and conviction to address the need for long-term investment in America's crumbling infrastructure, too many in both chambers cower at the thought of taking a vote that will actually move our nation forward.

LIUNA will continue to support the true leaders who will fight for these solutions.

###

<http://www.liuna.org/news/story/congress-should-have-courage-to-make-our-roads-and-bridges-safe-protect-jobs-by-fixing-the-highway-trust-fund-crisis>

"It's time to stop sugar-coating this issue," said LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan. "We are not trying to scare people, but we are trying to wake people and Congress up."

If Congress does not act, the nation's already failing roads and bridges will worsen.

Currently:

- One in four bridges is deficient or obsolete, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. The average U.S. bridge is 46 years old, dangerously close to the average lifespan of 50 years. Without investment, more bridge failures are likely such as the high-profile ones that have occurred from the deadly Minneapolis bridge collapse to the I-5 collapse in Washington State to this month's closure of the heavily-traveled I-495 Delaware bridge after it was observed tilting.
- Poor road conditions, such as potholes, are now a contributing factor in a third of traffic fatalities, equating to about 10,000 lost lives each year, according to the transportation research group, TRIP.

Last week, LIUNA released a national poll by Hart Research Associates, which uncovered the degree of concern most Americans have about their roads. About six in 10 say they worry about poor road conditions – 27% of them worrying often. Four in 10 say they or someone they know has almost had an accident or lost control of their car due to poor road surfaces, and 28% say poor roads have caused an accident involving themselves or someone they know. And a striking 69% say poor roads cost them in wear and tear on their cars – a “pothole penalty” that equates to \$324 a year for the average driver, according to TRIP. Experiences and concerns are similar regardless of political party.



<http://www.liuna.org/news/story/getting-schooled-in-infrastructure-tour-begins-highlights-americas-failing-roads-and-bridges>

WAKE UP AMERICA

We've been asleep at the wheel for two decades.
Let's fix our crumbling roads and bridges now.

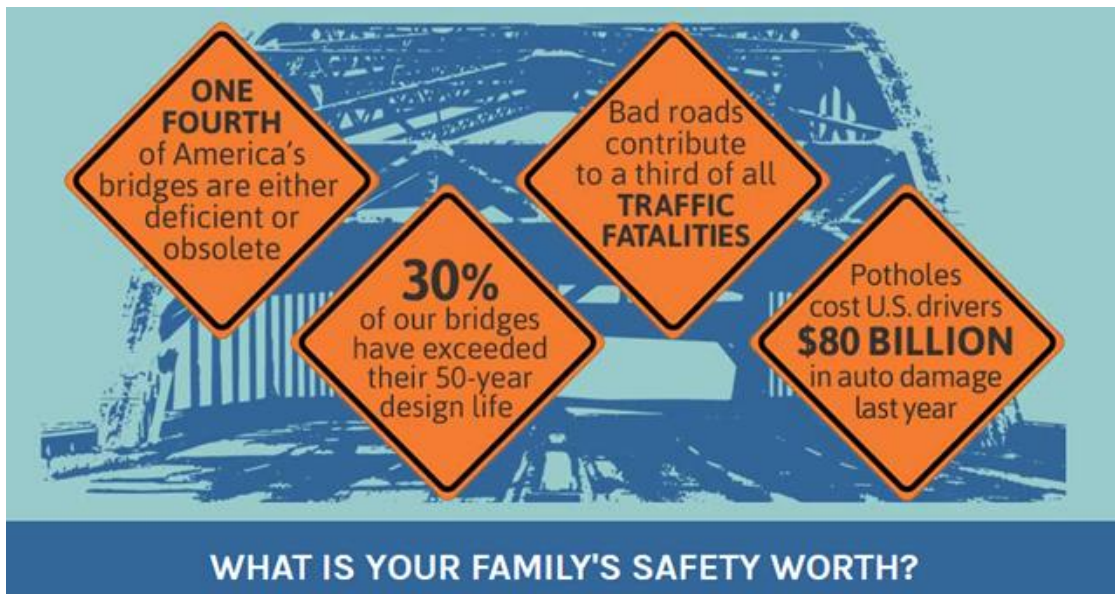


Investment in our country's critical infrastructure has fallen by 40% in the last 20 years. Our roads and bridges are too often unsafe or congested with traffic. It's more than a minor inconvenience -- bridges are collapsing, potholes are causing accidents and damaging our cars and roadways are often nearly impassable due to traffic. We can't afford to kick the can down the pothole-ridden road any longer.

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION



The best option to expedite much-needed repairs to our infrastructure is for Congress to pass a long-term Highway Bill and to fully invest in our safety and the reliability of our roads and bridges. Congress has a number of viable options to bridge the gap between current infrastructure investments and what is needed to prevent further deterioration of our transportation system. That way we can avoid potentially catastrophic events like the tragic bridge collapse in Minneapolis. But we can't do it without your support.



CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Fix potholes and make our bridges safe

BACK TO HOME

- **One fourth** of America's bridges are either **deficient or obsolete**.
Source: <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/a/#p/bridges/conditions-and-capacity>
- **30%** of existing bridges have exceeded their **50-year** design life.
Source: <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/a/documents/2013-Report-Card.pdf>
- **Poor roads** contribute to a third of all traffic **fatalities**.
Source: <http://www.artba.org/about/transportation-faqs/>
- **Potholes** cost U.S. drivers **\$80 billion** in auto repairs last year.
Source: http://www.tripnet.org/docs/Urban_Roads_Report_Oct_2013.pdf



**POTHOLES NOT ONLY
CAUSE INJURY**

THEY COST U.S. DRIVERS \$80 BILLION

RepairOurRoads.org



**THIS BRIDGE WAS BUILT
TO LAST 50 YEARS
IN 1928**

#FixOurBridges

FixOurBridges.org



Federal Inspectors deemed this bridge
"FUNCTIONALLY OBSOLETE"
Enjoy your ride

National Bridge Inventory

FixOurBridges.org

<http://www.fixourbridges.org/>