



Please pass this information along to your members, employees, coworkers and friends.

WVDOT To Host Eight Regional Public Meetings About New 25-Year Transportation Plan

The West Virginia Department of Transportation has scheduled a series of informational public meetings throughout the state on the draft of the Statewide Multi-modal Long-Range Transportation Plan, a 25-year transportation outlook. “The plan takes inventory of the state’s modal infrastructure and identifies the physical assets under the direct control of each agency of the WVDOT,” according to a press release from the WDBOT. “It reviews historic funding expenditure types and levels corresponding with each revenue source and mode to develop a 25-year revenue transportation forecast. For the Division of Highways, a review of how projects are prioritization was conducted.”

The second of two rounds of eight workshop public meetings will be conducted to ensure public input into the draft plan’s recommendations and strategies, the department said. “The meetings will afford participants the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on how state and federal fiscal resources should be spent in future years for all modes of transportation.”

The second round of workshop meetings are scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates in the following locations, with the exception of the March 10 public meeting in the Capitol Rotunda in Charleston, which is from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

March 2, 2010	Logan High School, One Wildcat Way, Logan, W.Va.
March 4, 2010	City Building, 1 Government Square, Parkersburg, W.Va.
March 9, 2010	TTA Center, 1301 4th Avenue, Huntington, W.Va.
March 10, 2010	State Capitol Rotunda, Charleston, W.Va. (10:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)
March 11, 2010	Woodrow Wilson High School, 400 Stanaford Road, Beckley, W.Va.
March 16, 2010	Room 201, City Building, Weirton, W.Va.
March 17, 2010	Liberty High School Auditorium, One Mountaineer Drive. Clarksburg, W.Va.
March 18, 2010	Berkeley County Commission, 400 West Stephen Street, Suite 201, Martinsburg, W.Va.

Those wishing to provide written input may address submissions to Robert L. Pennington, P.E., Director, Program Planning and Administration Division, West Virginia Department of Transportation, Capitol Complex, Building 5, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia 25305 on or before May 15, 2010, or by visiting www.wvtransplan.com.

The state’s Road Fund is struggling to meet the wide range of needs around the state, and price increases for steel, concrete, petroleum and other construction materials have resulted in the WVDOT experiencing a 30 percent decrease in its purchasing power during the past 10 years.

Deneault Commentary: Extend Highway Funding

(Editor's Note: Provided is a commentary written by WVBT's Chairman Joe Deneault that was published in the Feb. 16, 2010 edition of The Charleston Gazette.)

Federal funding for highways and bridges is vitally important in order for our nation to continue expanding and rebuilding its vast transportation infrastructure and to keep millions of construction workers on the job. However, Congress needs to come up with immediate answers as to how it will continue federal funding of the nation's highway program.

To provide for a short-term solution, Senate Democratic leaders announced in early February that they plan to move forward with a series of "jobs bills," as opposed to one large measure like their U.S. House counterparts did. One of the first of these measures would provide for an extension of the federal highway and transit programs through Dec. 31, 2010. This would help to keep core federal highway projects moving and investment flowing throughout this year.

The highway and transit programs have been operating under a series of short-term extensions since the current six-year federal highway authorization law (SAFETEA-LU) expired at the end of September 2009. These interim measures have distributed surface transportation funds in piecemeal fashion and at a reduced allotment of spending authority (contract authority) than was provided to states in fiscal year 2009. This situation has imposed further complications and uncertainty on state transportation programs that are already facing major challenges.

The Senate's Surface Transportation Program Extension Proposal would do the following:

- Extend the authorization for the highway, transit and safety programs at the 2009 investment levels through December 31, 2010.
- Credit the federal Highway Trust Fund with \$19.8 billion in foregone revenue due to the fund's interest earnings being deposited in the federal General Fund since 1998. These resources will ensure the trust fund can meet its obligations through the end of 2010.
- Shift the cost of motor fuel tax exemptions for state and local governments to the federal General Fund. This would generate an estimated \$1.5 billion in new annual revenue for the Highway Trust Fund.
- Restore lost contract (spending) authority from the \$8.7 billion rescission SAFETEA-LU required on September 30, 2009.

The delayed highway/transit program reauthorization has created major uncertainty for state transportation programs. And, this uncertainty is diluting the impact of the Recovery Act's transportation investments and helping drive the disproportionate level of unemployment in the transportation construction industry.

The proposed extension and its provisions to stabilize the Highway Trust Fund will provide the continuity necessary to help maximize employment and economic activity from the 2010 construction season. West Virginia relies heavily on federal highway funding, and resolving the funding issues will help keep many key projects moving and many workers on the job.

Keeping West Virginia moving and keeping West Virginians working are two key objectives of West Virginians for Better Transportation.

REGISTER TO WIN!

Special WVBT-EXPO Contest: Enter To Win An HDTV!



West Virginians for Better Transportation once again will give away a flat-screen HDTV to one lucky winner who is present at the 2010 West Virginia Construction and Design Exposition's EXPO. The drawing will take place during the EXPO's After Hours event on March 24, 2010, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Charleston Civic Center.

You must be at least 18 years of age and be present at the EXPO After Hours event on March 24, 2010 in order to win. Please read all rules before entering the drawing.

TWO WAYS TO ENTER:

1. Complete this on-line form: <http://www.keepwvmoving.org/getactive/hdtv.aspx>
2. Drop by the WVBT exhibit booth on the first day of EXPO to get an entry form.

The HDTV drawing is sponsored by The Manahan Group, Malone Consulting Services and Advantage Technology.

Help Support WVBT's Ongoing Efforts In 2010

Now more than ever WVBT needs financial support from coalition partners and companies. If your organization or company would like to help sustain the coalition's ongoing campaign or would like to get more information about West Virginians for Better Transportation, please send an email to info@keepwvmoving.org. Someone would be happy to contact you.

Remember -- even with recent successes, West Virginia still has massive unmet needs (\$2 billion) for bridge, roadway and highway maintenance and construction.

Need A Speaker?

If you would like to have a speaker come talk about transportation to your group or organization, please complete this request form:

http://www.keepwvmoving.org/getactive/request_a_wvbt_speaker.aspx

For more information about West Virginians for Better Transportation, please go to www.keepwvmoving.org.

To opt out of this email system, please send your request to info@keepwvmoving.org.