



(Please share this email with your employees, colleagues and others.)

Transportation Day At The W.Va. Capitol **Groups United In Call For Transportation Plan**

West Virginians for Better Transportation (WVBT) and several partner groups yesterday announced they will be developing a coordinated campaign with the goal of getting state leaders to develop and enact a long-term plan to address the state's transportation needs. The announcement was made as part of the group's first-ever Transportation Day at the Capitol.



“The time is now to address this issue,” said WVBT Chairman Bill Hilborn. “We’ve talked a lot about finding a solution. We think it’s time to do more than talk.” Hilborn said his organization will ask partner groups to join in and to make financial commitments to help cover the costs of a statewide advertising and PR effort that will educate legislators, policymakers and the general public. Hilborn said his group

is asking legislators to come up with a solution by the end of the 2013 legislative session.

Twenty-four (24) groups, including WVBT, from across the state gathered at the state Capitol to meet with local legislators and to help educate lawmakers about the challenges facing transportation. They also met with Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. WVBT coalition groups participating in the “2012 Transportation Day at the West Virginia Capitol” were:

- West Virginians for Better Transportation
- West Virginia Chamber of Commerce
- West Virginia Business & Industry Council
- West Virginia Economic Development Council
- West Virginia AFL-CIO
- Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation of West Virginia
- West Virginia Association of Counties

- West Virginia Municipal League
- West Virginia Trucking Association
- West Virginia Manufacturers Association
- West Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association
- West Virginia Ski Areas Association
- Contractors Association of West Virginia
- American Council of Engineering Companies of West Virginia
- West Virginia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers
- Asphalt Pavement Association of West Virginia
- West Virginia Crushed Aggregates Council
- Builders Supply Association of West Virginia
- Coalfields Expressway Authority
- King Coal Highway I-73/74 Authority
- I-73/74/75 Corridor Association
- Shawnee Parkway Authority
- Little Kanawha River Parkway Authority
- Robert C. Byrd Corridor H Highway Authority

“These groups are united in their request that legislators spend this year taking a serious look at our transportation infrastructure challenges and examining possible solutions to the funding needs,” Hilborn added. “Ultimately, our state will need a long-term plan.”

Hilborn explained that the state’s transportation system is facing both continued inflationary increases and funding uncertainties. “The situation is getting rather problematic, with the state Department of

Transportation now being on the record that it cannot keep up with fulfilling maintenance obligations of the existing system nor meeting the calls for new highway construction projects. The current situation also has added uncertainty and instability for the thousands of workers who are part of the state’s transportation, engineering and construction industries.”



“Twenty-four of the largest, most influential organizations and groups, representing business, labor, travel/tourism, local governments and transportation authorities, are assembled today here at the Capitol to point out the dire circumstances facing our state’s roads, bridges and highways and to showcase the united support for maintaining and growing a modern, efficient and safe transportation system,” he continued.

“West Virginia needs to develop a long-term plan for its transportation needs and priorities ...and this plan needs to have a secure funding source not only for maintenance of the existing infrastructure...but also for new construction and expansion,” Hilborn said. “And, our national

leaders in Congress must enact a six-year federal highway reauthorization bill that is fully funded.”

DOT Secretary Proposes \$1B-\$1.5B Road Bond

During yesterday’s Transportation Day at the W.Va. Capitol, state DOT Secretary Paul Mattox proposed the idea of having state voters approve a \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion bond measure to accelerate a number of key highway and road projects. The Secretary offered this idea during a joint meeting of the Transportation Committees of the West Virginia Legislature. Click on the stories below to learn more about this proposal and reactions of key lawmakers. If voters were to approve this bond measure, the state could expedite a number of key projects, such as Corridor H, the remaining section of Route 35 in Putnam County, several major highway projects in southern West Virginia and 13 other long-delayed construction projects. He said this action would “create more highway construction jobs, strengthen our economy and allow the opportunity for economic development adjacent to these projects.”



Highways chief floats road bond issue

[Charleston Daily Mail, Jan. 13, 2012](#)

State may look to voters for road funds

[The Charleston Gazette, Jan. 12, 2012](#)

W.Va. lawmakers weigh \$1B bond for road needs

[The Associated Press, Jan. 12, 2012](#)

NOTE: This article appears in most newspapers across the state.

DOT Leader Asks for \$1 Billion Bond

[MetroNews, Jan. 13, 2012](#)

WV lawmakers weigh \$1B bond for road needs

[The State Journal, Jan. 13, 2012](#)

W.Va. Legislature Adopts Transportation Resolutions

The West Virginia Legislature adopted resolutions yesterday that support WVBT's call for a long-term funding plan for transportation and for Congress to enact a fully funded federal highway reauthorization bill. The resolutions were provided by WVBT as part of Transportation Day activities. Leaders with WVBT joined with lawmakers for a photo session in each house.

Click to read the resolutions:

[House Resolution 4](#)

[Senate Resolution 3](#)

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.