

Key Talking Points for DRIVE Alabama

DRIVE Alabama is a coalition of community leaders, elected officials, and everyday citizens who are committed to developing a transportation and infrastructure vision to meet Alabama's 21st century mobility needs.

Current funding sources are woefully shy of keeping pace with the rapid decline and rising costs of Alabama's local road and bridge infrastructure. A recent study showed that Alabama counties are facing a \$133 million annual shortfall in the revenue needed to adequately preserve and improve the 43,284 miles of county paved roads and 8,650 county bridge structures throughout the state.

Governor Bentley's Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP) made a one-time \$1 billion investment to help counties repair and improve major roads and bridges. While ATRIP provided a massive boost for local transportation programs, the program is nearing its end.

Local officials and county engineers are concerned about losing the momentum they've gained in making much needed improvements to local road and bridge structures that qualified for ATRIP funding -- not to mention the rural roads that didn't qualify for program.

The state gas tax and federal funding are the primary monetary resources for local road and bridge programs. Currently, 55% of Alabama's gas tax revenues are divided among the states' 67 counties and 460 municipalities; however, local governments own 88% of Alabama's road miles and 89% of the states' deficient bridge structures.

Even though construction costs are almost 250% higher now than 20 years ago, neither the state or federal gasoline tax has been adjusted since the early 1990's. As a result, Alabama's ability to make transportation infrastructure improvement has been drastically reduced over the years.

The reality is that Alabama's road and bridge infrastructure impacts the day-to-day quality of life of the state's 4.65 million residents -- from economic development and daily commute times, to emergency management and vehicle maintenance.

It is estimated that driving on deficient roads costs Alabama motorists a total of \$3.1 billion each year in the form of additional vehicle operating costs congestion-related delays and traffic crashes. What if we could find a way to pump a fraction of these wasted dollars into improving the state's road and bridge programs?

DRIVE Alabama believes that a sustainable road and bridge revenue source for local governments—created out of the momentum of ATRIP—would have a massive impact on Alabama's transportation infrastructure system.

To learn more about DRIVE Alabama, please visit www.drivealabama.org. The campaign is also active on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.