West Virginia
Blue Ribbon Commission on Highways
Transportation Funding Gap

Senator Robert H. Plymale
December 7, 2012
West Virginia Blue Ribbon Highway Commission

- Commission Members
  - State Officials
  - Members from statewide constituency groups
  - Representatives of counties and municipalities
  - Members of the Legislature
  - Business Representatives
  - Citizens

- The West Virginia Department of Transportation and consultants provide staff support for the Commission.
Focus of the Commission

- Study condition and needs of the state’s transportation system
- Develop long-term strategic plan of action to include funding options for the maintenance, construction and expansion of the state’s roadway system

The Blue Ribbon Highway Commission will present a report to the Governor by February 1, 2013 (under review with possible extension).
Commission Meetings

- September 14, 2012
  - Introductions and Opening Statements
  - Discussed Mission, Staff Support and Funding
  - Created Infrastructure, Revenue and Legislative and Public Outreach Committees

- October 19, 2012
  - Committee Assignments
  - Regional Meetings Schedule and Locations
  - Presentations
  - Public Comment Period

- December 13, 2012 Infrastructure Committee
Current Condition of Transportation Infrastructure

American Society of Civil Engineers 2009 Report

Federal
- Level for Transportation Infrastructure – Grade D
- 5-year investment estimation of $2.2 trillion which represents a $1.2 trillion shortfall

West Virginia
Top 3 Infrastructure Concerns
- Bridges
- Roads
- Drinking Water
Current Condition of WV Transportation Infrastructure

Highway

- 26% total lane-miles rated “Poor Condition” (6th poorest)

Bridges Rated as Substandard

- 35% - West Virginia
- 22% - US States

Fatality Rates (per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled - VMT)

- 1.6 - West Virginia
- 1.1 - US States
Traditional Transportation Funding Sources

**West Virginia**
- Motor Fuel Taxes
- Motor Vehicle Consumer Sales
- Use Tax
- License Fees
- Registration Fees

**Federal**
- Highway Trust Fund (Primarily)
WV Transportation Funding Challenges

- One of four states with jurisdiction over both state and county roads
- State government is responsible for over 92 percent of public highways
- Counties have no structure or mechanism for funding road maintenance
- 30% less money available than in 1999
WV Transportation Funding Gap (2008 - 2032)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>$ Millions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projected Funding</td>
<td>$23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to 1999 Level</td>
<td>$30.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep up with Current Conditions</td>
<td>$33.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet WV DOH Goals and Construct Top 20 projects</td>
<td>$48.5</td>
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Importance of Transportation Investment

Office of the President in 2011:

- Investments in transportation infrastructure have substantial economic benefits, in both the short and the long run. Evidence of these benefits is clearly visible in many of the infrastructure projects that have recently been completed throughout the country.

- “The U.S. economy relies heavily on transportation infrastructure, and these investments to improve the condition and performance of our infrastructure allow people and goods to move more efficiently and safely around the country.”—same for WV
Outcomes From Transportation Investment

- Travel Time & Cost Savings
- Industry Productivity Growth
- Economy Output Growth
- Accessibility of Jobs & Workers
- Improved Supply Chains
Bridging the Funding Gap Options

- Congestion Pricing
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Bonds
- Increase Tax on Gas
- Increase Vehicle Registration and Sales Tax
- Tolls
- Increase Privilege Tax
- General Revenue Fund Transfers
- Local Funding Options
Conclusion and Future Considerations

- Extend Commission Report Deadline
- Update 2010 WVDOT Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan
- Create Strategic Plan to Meet 21st Century Transportation Challenges
Questions & Comments

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Sources

- WV Blue Ribon Commission on Highways - [http://www.transportation.wv.gov/highways/highwayscommission/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.transportation.wv.gov/highways/highwayscommission/Pages/default.aspx)

- Source: Executive Office of the President 2011 – “Recent Examples of the Economic Benefits from Investing in Infrastructure”

