

National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission

RPO America

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Charlotte, NC

Kent Van Landuyt

Missouri DOT

National Commission

- Established by Congress – SAFETEA-LU
- 12 Appointed members from business, industry, local communities & government

National Commission

- Purpose - “that it is in the national interest to preserve and enhance the surface transportation system to meet the needs of the United States for the 21st century.”

National Commission Members

Mary Peters, Secretary of Transportation—Chairperson

- Frank Busalacchi, Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation
- Maria Cino, Deputy Secretary of Transportation
- Rick Geddes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Cornell University
Dept. of Policy Analysis and Management
- Steve Heminger, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation
Commission
- Frank McArdle, General Contractors Association of New York
- Steve Odland, Chairman and CEO, Office Depot
- Patrick Quinn, Chairman, American Trucking Association
- Matt Rose, CEO, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad
- Jack Schenendorf, Of Counsel, Covington & Burling-Vice Chair
- Tom Skancke, CEO, The Skancke Company
- Paul Weyrich, Chairman and CEO, Free Congress Foundation

National Commission Background

- Trans. Finance – Highway & Transit
- Highway Trust Fund [HTF] – Hwy & Transit Accts.
- Funds Federal Surface Transportation Programs
- SAFETEA-LU – Ends Sept. 30, 2009!!!
- HTF – Must have positive balance on 9/30/09

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- Congress - Must take action to have a positive balance in HTF on 9/30/09.

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- What does this mean to you in your local communities and planning organizations?
 1. Highway and Transit Programs
 - a. Now
 - b. In the future
 2. Impact on Economic Development
 3. Safety of Traveling Public

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- What will be happening in your state?
 - a. State DOT
 1. Canceled projects
 2. Delayed projects
 3. No new projects
 4. Reduced Transit Service
 5. Major changes in next STIP

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- What will be happening in your state?
(cont.)
 - b. Planning Organizations
 1. Canceled & delayed projects in your communities
 2. Nothing added to the STIP from your area
 3. Impact on Economic Development
 4. Reduced & discontinued Transit Service
 5. Safety of Traveling Public

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Back to the Commission

Congressional Direction – Study & Report by July 1, 2007

- (I) current condition & future needs of surface transportation system;
- (II) short-term sources of Highway Trust Fund revenues;
- (III) long-term alternatives to replace or supplement the fuel tax
- (IV) revenue sources to fund the needs of the surface transportation system over at least the 30-year period [2035],

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Congressional Direction – Study & Report by July 1, 2007 (cont.)

- (V) are current revenue sources for Highway Trust Fund adequate
- (VI) are current revenues amounts adequate
- (VII) Alternatives
[is likely to increase, decrease, or remain constant absent any change in law, taking into consideration the impact of possible changes in public vehicular choice, fuel use, and travel alternatives that could be expected to reduce or increase revenues into the Highway Trust Fund;]

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- Field hearings around the country (NY, MN, TN, TX, OR)
- More to come in IL, CA, GA & WDC

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What is the Commission hearing?

1. U.S. is behind in the world market – China, Asia & India moving ahead
2. Major demand for intermodal freight movement
3. U.S. does not have a National Transportation Policy and hasn't had since the Interstate Program 50 years ago.
4. Major funding needed to make U.S. transportation system competitive on world market.

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What is the Commission **NOT** hearing?

1. Recommendations & possible solutions to a national transportation program
2. Transportation funding alternatives with universal support
3. A national referendum to make transportation a national priority

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What can you do at your RPO!

1. Keep you board informed
2. Share transportation concerns with your local elected officials
3. Let the members of Congress, in your area, know your concerns about the future of the federal transportation program

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What can you do at your RPO! [cont.]

4. Develop local information on the impact of reduced federal transportation funds in your area and share with your members of U.S. Congress on:
 - a. Safety
 - b. Highways
 - c. Public Transit
 - d. Economic Development

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What can you do at your RPO! [cont.]

5. Follow the National Commission's activities and respond.
6. Support **NADO** as they work with other organizations and move forward with support of an improved national transportation program!!!

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Web Site for National Commission

<http://www.surfacecommission.gov/>

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Discussion – what do you think?

National Commission

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