

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PRESIDENTS' FORUM  
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## INTRODUCTION

- Arthur Fox -- for years editor of *Engineering News Record*. His work after retirement is as valuable as his journalistic ventures. Important advisor to government and industry policymakers.

## TRANSPORTATION IN THE NEWS

- Two recent articles in newspapers worthy of note to you:
  - ISTE A can't fulfill expectations. Headline of *Wall Street Journal* front page column declares; "Transportation Funds Are Rising, but Effect Won't be Felt Soon." According to writer, new federal law is hobbled by states' financial woes and its own complexity.
  - State's financial troubles confirmed by article in today's *Washington Times*. According to figures given by National Association of Governors -- 35 state governments are facing a revenue shortfall totaling \$5.7 billion this year.

## GETTING MONEY OUT OF THE PIPELINE

- My highest priority is getting this ISTEA money spent: creating jobs ... building nation's infrastructure. Have met with Bill Reilly and Nancy Dorn to create a task force to accelerate the program.
- Even if fiscal health of states is weak, there are still ways to get monies to the states:
  - **Waviers:** Case of Vermont.
  - **Soft Match:** Case of New Jersey.
  - **Public/Private Investment.** Example of the Dulles Toll Road Extension, Virginia.
- About \$7.4 billion (46 percent) of the FY 1992 funding has been obligated. Anticipate actual spending this FY to be \$2 billion -- 15 percent higher than historic 5-year average.
- Individual state obligations levels vary greatly -- from less than 20 percent (Rhode Island) to over 70 percent (Wyoming).
- ISTEA at work in many vital projects. Florida speeding up a \$100 million project to add four lanes to badly congested Buckman Bridge in Jacksonville. Illinois is rebuilding 7.5 miles of dilapidated JFK Expressway. Maryland planning to increase state's commuter rail service through congested Washington suburbs.



- The key to success is state government. Wisconsin Governor Thompson is "go getter" -- Has detailed plan for state transportation development called "Mobility 2000." Need similar efforts by all governors. On my way to Penn. this week.

#### NEED YOUR HELP

- Thanks to Fox you are the engine that will drive the jobs process. Need your help <sup>is</sup> motivating local and state authorities. Need to get plans off the drawing boards and into the construction sites.
- Need also to be alerted to new concerns/sensitivity toward environment.

#### REGULATORY REFORM

- The Labor Department has given contractors/builders greater flexibility to hire semi-skilled "helpers" for federally funded construction projects.
- Trucking Deregulation-- designed to reduce regulatory burdens, improve efficiency, establish more flexible pricing, permit carriers to serve larger areas and carry more commodities.

#### WE MUST EMBRACE CHANGE

- President Bush -- "there are five critical ways in which America must change if we are to continue to lead the world..." We must have reform in government ...

education ... legal and health care system ... and expand trade.

- We are coming to a new day -- a new way of doing business. One that will be more efficient because it includes you as our partner.
- Open to questions and comments.

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