



National Asphalt Pavement Association Seeks to Focus Federal Infrastructure Initiative on Modernizing “America’s Economic Expressway”

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) has joined the “Partnership for America’s Economic Expressway,” a coalition urging modernization of the nation’s freight network as a focal point of any federal infrastructure initiative developed by President Trump and the Congress.

The Partnership says the “Economic Expressway” is the 68,000-mile National Highway Freight Network (NHFN) designated by Congress in 2015. It includes most of the Interstate System and its critical urban and rural connectors to the nation’s major ports, inland waterways, rail hubs, airports and pipelines.

The problem is not that the NHFN is crumbling, Jay Hansen, says. “The problem is it is woefully underperforming. It is outdated, congested, overused and underfunded. It needs to be modernized to handle the 70 million more people and 44 percent increase in truck shipments expected over the next 30 years. A poorly performing NHFN negatively impacts all modes of freight transport.”

The Partnership is mounting a digital advertising and social media education campaign [*financially supported by organization*] targeting the White House and members of Congress. The campaign draws attention to the benefits of a high-powered “Economic Expressway” and provides a vision of what it could look like with proper investment. The vision is outlined in the Partnership’s website, www.EconomicExpressway.org.

“The good news is, the President and Congress don’t need to develop a new program to modernize our freight network,” Hansen says. “That’s already been done. What is needed is to properly fund Sections 1105 and 1116 of the surface transportation law enacted in 2015. That would immediately make possible strategic, high payoff freight infrastructure investments in every state.”

“With bold and visionary action this year, Congress and the Trump Administration could transform our congested and crippled 20th century highway freight network into the high-performance 21st century “Economic Expressway” necessary to facilitate economic growth, create American jobs, and make America more competitive.”

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