



2008 Drive-in

May 14th
Madison Club

Thanks Drive-in Sponsors

AFSCME, Wisconsin Council 40

American Council of Engineering Companies
of Wisconsin

CH2M HILL

Earth Tech, Inc.

FABCO Equipment, Inc.

HNTB Corporation

Int'l Union of Operating Engineers, Local 139

Mead & Hunt, Inc.

Miller-Bradford & Risberg, Inc.

OMNNI Associates

Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.

Transportation Environmental Management, Inc.

Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association

Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association

Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association

Wisconsin County Highway Association

Wisconsin Laborers' District Council

Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association

Standing Still Means Falling Behind

2008 TDA Drive-in

In 2006, the legislature's bipartisan Road to the Future Committee issued a report that documented a \$700 million annual transportation funding shortfall just to meet existing needs for transportation programs (not including rail, ports or air).

On the heels of this report, the governor and legislature debated and ultimately passed the 2007-09 biennial budget (Act 20). Act 20 did not restore gas tax indexing or provide any new long-range funding mechanism, but it did increase various fees enough to stem the tide of declining transportation investment. The budget also avoided transferring funds out of transportation for the first time in four years.

In March of this year, Representative Mark Gottlieb, co-chair of the Road to the Future Committee, asked the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to update the committee's 2006 findings. The Fiscal Bureau determined that despite the increased fees in Act 20 the transportation funding shortfall has grown to almost \$1 billion due to high construction inflation.

The vast majority of the reconstruction of the Southeast Wisconsin Freeway system still lies ahead. Adjusting for construction inflation, the entire project will cost between \$8-\$10 billion. The only portion of that which has been largely completed is the Marquette Interchange which cost less than \$1 billion.

TDA has joined with numerous other groups to urge the federal government to step-up its financial end of the partnership with the states to solve the transportation crisis. We have been supportive of the *Transportation for Tomorrow* report from a federal commission charged by Congress to develop options to fund our transportation system. The 12 member commission, including Secretary Busalacchi, calls for significant increases in the federal gas tax as well as indexing the federal gas tax.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has launched its "Let's Rebuild America" campaign calling for an increase in the federal gas tax. Governors Schwarzenegger, Rendell and Mayor Bloomberg formed a not for profit group called "Building America's Future" designed to reinvigorate the federal government's commitment to our infrastructure.

There is clearly need for increased federal financial involvement. However, Wisconsin needs to begin addressing its own daunting transportation needs.

First, increased federal funding will not happen if Wisconsin and other states don't demonstrate a clear commitment to transportation within their own states. This certainly means no diverting of transportation funds.

Second, Wisconsin's needs are too great to be met even with increased federal participation. Our current \$1 billion annual shortfall coupled with significant upcoming commitments in Southeast Wisconsin necessitate increased ongoing state investment.

Our neighbors in Minnesota and Illinois have recently approved sizeable increases to fund transportation needs in their states. While Wisconsin remains the cheapest state in which to drive in the Midwest, our transportation system, and therefore, Wisconsin's economic competitiveness is suffering.

The Meeting

Join us on May 14th to hear from legislative leaders, a leader in Minnesota's transportation community and executives from regional economic development entities in Wisconsin and to discuss what lies ahead for Wisconsin's transportation system.

2008 TDA Drive-in

Wednesday, May 14th

Agenda
Madison Club

*Speakers and panelists have been invited.
Check the TDA website, www.tdawisconsin.org,
for any additions or changes to this agenda.*

- 9:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 9:25 Welcome
Sheldon Johnson, TDA President
- 9:30 Margaret Donahoe, Executive Director
The Minnesota Transportation Alliance
- 10:00 Regional Economic Development Panel
Tim Sheehy, President
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce

Jerry Murphy, Executive Director
New North, Inc.

Tom Still, President
Wisconsin Technology Council
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Senator Russ Decker, D-Weston
Senate Majority Leader
- 11:20 Representative Michael Huebsch, R-West Salem
Speaker of the Assembly
- 11:40 Wrap-up
Craig Thompson, TDA Executive Director
- Noon Lunch



THE MADISON
C L U B

5 E. Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 255-4861

Registration Form

2008 TDA Drive-in

Wednesday, May 14th

We encourage guests.

Please photocopy form for each additional registrant.

Name

Organization

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Fax

Email

Website

Lunch selection:

- Filet of tenderloin topped with fresh sauteed mushrooms and sauce chasseur
- Sicilian penne pasta with rapini, red onion, zucchini, grape tomatoes, preserved lemon and extra virgin olive oil vinaigrette.

Registration fee: \$25 (check payable to TDA). Fee includes: session attendance, continental breakfast, and networking lunch.

Please return registration form with payment to TDA by May 7th.

Transportation Development Association

131 W. Wilson Street, #302

Madison, WI 53703