

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 932

By Sanderson

A RESOLUTION to urge Congress to quickly develop a long-term plan to stabilize and grow Highway Trust Fund revenues to achieve certain purposes.

WHEREAS, a safe, efficient, and reliable surface transportation network is vital to Tennessee's future economic growth, quality of life, and security; and

WHEREAS, inadequate investment in Tennessee's highway and bridge infrastructure system is having a dramatic impact on the citizens of Tennessee, causing them to spend too much time idling on increasingly congested roads and bridges rather than with their families; and

WHEREAS, the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21), which authorized the federal-aid highway and public transportation programs, will expire September 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Trust Fund and its user fee based revenue stream supports all federal investment in highway and bridge improvements and the vast majority of the federal public transportation program; and

WHEREAS, federal highway investment has provided on average sixty-two percent (62%) of Tennessee's highway and bridge capital outlays since 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Trust Fund experienced revenue shortfalls in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 that created uncertainty about federal surface transportation investment commitments; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation will begin slowing reimbursements to states for already approved federal-aid projects as early as July to preserve a positive balance in the Highway Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office reports the Highway Trust Fund will be unable to support any new highway or public transportation spending in Fiscal Year 2015 absent congressional action to increase trust fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, eliminating \$49 billion in federal highway and public transportation investment in one (1) year would threaten hundreds of thousands of jobs nationwide and severely disrupt Tennessee's long-term transportation improvement plans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the Congress of the United States to quickly develop a long-term plan to stabilize and grow Highway Trust Fund revenues, which achieves the following:

- (1) Continues the historic federal-state partnership that developed the Interstate Highway System;
- (2) Contributes to deficit reduction and economic growth;
- (3) Assures the integrity of the surface transportation program, and resists funding diversions that have been harmful to public support; and
- (4) Allows Congress to pass a multi-year reauthorization of the federal highway and public transportation programs before MAP-21 expires.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution with this final clause omitted from such copy to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.