

Congressman DeFazio is a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where he serves as the ranking member of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, and also serves on the Aviation and Railroad Subcommittees

Over the years, DeFazio has established a reputation as a leader on transportation issues. He believes United States must invest in a robust, multimodal transportation system if we are to remain in league with competitor nations around the world. Yet we are seriously lagging behind. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) reports approximately one-third of America's roads are in "poor or mediocre condition," and over 150,000 of our bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Across the country, trucks are rerouted due to weight restriction on bridges, and Americans waste time and money on high-priced gasoline idling in traffic.

Our national investment in infrastructure is dwarfed by competitor nations. The Urban Land Institute reports China currently spends 9% of its GDP on infrastructure including transportation; India spends 5% (and growing). Yet the United States spends only 0.93% of our GDP on like investments. Even countries making austerity cuts, like the U.K., have maintained investments in their transportation and infrastructure systems because they know these investments produce economic gains.

Click to jump to section

[DeFazio Appointed to the Transportation Conference Committee](#) | [DeFazio Opinion Editorials on Transportation](#)

| [Transportation News Clips](#)

| [Recent DeFazio Floor Speeches](#)

| [DeFazio Press Releases](#)



DeFazio Appointed to the Transportation Conference Committee

On April 25th, Congressman DeFazio was named as one of the principal negotiators to the House-Senate conference committee on the surface transportation reauthorization bill (H.R. 4348/S. 1813).

Congressman DeFazio believes there is no more certain way to jumpstart our economy, put people to work and improve our long-term economic competitiveness than with a robust transportation bill. According to two bipartisan commission reports initiated under the Bush administration, our nation needs to double its current investment in our transportation system just to bring it up to a state of good repair. The National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission said our national transportation system has deteriorated so greatly “our safety, economic competitiveness, and quality of life are at risk.”

Meaningful negotiations to craft bipartisan had been waylaid by a minority of representatives who believe the federal government has no role in transportation. These so-called “devolutionists” would stop all federal investment and fracture our national system and giving the responsibility to the fifty states to raise all funds and coordinate investments.

The uncertainty of no federal transportation bill has already forced many states to delay or cancel vital transportation infrastructure projects for this construction season meaning private sector firms in manufacturing, engineering, architecture, and other suppliers aren’t hiring workers for this construction season.

As a conferee, DeFazio is committed to working through partisan differences to craft a bipartisan solution that will put people back to work.

County Payments

The conference includes negotiations over a temporary one-year extension of vital county payments for Oregon counties. The Senate attached a one-year extension of Secure Rural Schools funding for forested counties nationwide to its two-year transportation bill (S. 1813), Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

The extension would deliver at least \$100 million in support payments for failing rural counties in Oregon. On April 18th, the House passed the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, Part II (H.R. 4348). This 90-day extension of the surface transportation programs through September 30, 2012, is the legislative vehicle the House used to conference with the Senate.

[top ↑](#)

Recent DeFazio Opinion Editorials on Transportation

[Too Little is Spent on Transportation](#) *Politico* (May 13, 2012) by Peter DeFazio

[The New Transportation Bill Will Only Make a Bad Situation Worse](#) *Register Guard* (February 22, 2012) by Peter DeFazio

[OP-ED: Rebuilding- Not Tax Cuts](#) - Creates Jobs *Register Guard* (June 24, 2011) by Peter DeFazio

[top ↑](#)

Transportation News Clips

[Long Term Funding Needs to Hit the Road, Jack](#) *Politico* by Janet Kavinoky U.S. Chamber of Commerce May 13, 2012

[Senate Gets It Right](#) *Eugene Register Guard Editorial* May 9, 2012

[On Transportation, Capitol Wheels Still Roll Slowly](#) *Oregonian* by David Sarasohn April 21, 2012

[The GOP Road To Nowhere](#) *Eugene Register Guard Editorial* February 7, 2012

[DeFazio: Road to jobs runs on bridges, dams](#) *Corvallis Gazette Times* by Bennett Hall September 27, 2011

[Avoiding More Brinkmanship](#) *Oregonian Editorial* August 25, 2011

[Man With A Plan](#) by Daniel Simmons-Richie *Coos Bay World* August 18, 2011

[It's Nuts. They're Nuts](#) *Oregonian Editorial* August 15, 2011

[DeFazio Makes Transportation A Priority](#) by Peter Wong *Salem Statesman Journal* February 3, 2011

[top ↑](#)

Recent DeFazio Floor Speeches

[top ↑](#)

DeFazio Press Releases

-

[04.25.12 DeFazio Selected to Negotiate With Senate On Transportation Bill, County Payments](#)

-

[04.20.12 DeFazio Protects Funding for Port Dredging](#)

-

[09.20.11 DeFazio Questions FMCSA On Cross-Border Trucking](#)

-

[07.06.11 DeFazio Fights Cross-Border Trucking "Pilot" Program](#)

-

[06.23.11 DeFazio Urges President to Stand Up to OPEC Price Gouging](#)

-

[06.20.11 DEFAZIO URGES MORE TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT, JOB CREATION](#)

-

[06.17.11 DEFAZIO TO ATTEND CEREMONY OFFICIALLY TRANSFERRING RAIL LINE TO PORT OF COOS BAY](#)

-

04.15.11 [DEFAZIO SECURES ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR COOS BAY RAIL LINE](#)

-

03.07.11 [DEFAZIO EXPEDITES FUNDS TO FINISH COOS BAY RAIL LINE REHABILITATION](#)

-

10.18.10 [DEFAZIO VISITS COOS BAY TO ANNOUNCE \\$13.5 MILLION GRANT TO FULLY REPAIR COOS BAY RAIL LINE, CREATE JOBS](#)

-

10.14.10 [DEFAZIO TO ANNOUNCE \\$13.5 MILLION GRANT TO FULLY REPAIR COOS BAY RAIL LINE, CREATE JOBS](#)

-

09.29.10 [DEFAZIO ANNOUNCES STUDY OF HIGHWAY 126W FROM EUGENE TO VENETA](#)

-

04.21.10 [DEFAZIO SECURES \\$300,000 FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN CAVE JUNCTION](#)

-

04.12.10 [DEFAZIO URGES STATE TO REACH RESOLUTION ON PORT OF SIUSLAW DREDGING](#)

-

07.15.09 [DeFazio Secures Funding for Corvallis Buses](#)

-

06.26.09 [DeFazio Secures Funding for Dredging and Maintenance](#)

-

06.26.09 [DeFazio Plan Fully Funds the Surface Transportation Authorization](#)

-

03.12.09 [DeFazio Secures Funding for Coos Bay Rail Line](#)

-

03.12.09 [DeFazio Applauds Passage of Funding for Wastewater Projects](#)

-

07.29.08 [DeFazio Secures Surface Transportation Board Hearing in Oregon on the Abandonment of Corp Rail Line](#)

[top ↑](#)

