

PB Washington Update - February 13, 2013 - Interim Report on State of the Union Address

As in past State of the Union addresses, President Obama mentioned infrastructure investment as a means to both create jobs and to attract jobs back to the US and to local communities. He also mentioned two proposals which the Administration has previously floated, but which Congress has shown little interest in to date – frontloading a \$50B infrastructure investment and using savings from the reduction in war costs to fund infrastructure. He also called for leveraging private sector investment to create jobs by upgrading transportation systems. In addition, he touched on the need for energy independence, energy efficiency, clean energy, and a bipartisan market-based solution to climate change.

From his remarks: “America’s energy sector is just one part of an aging infrastructure badly in need of repair. Ask any CEO where they’d rather locate and hire, a country with deteriorating roads and bridges or one with high-speed rail and Internet, high-tech schools, self-healing power grids.

The CEO of Siemens America -- a company that brought hundreds of new jobs to North Carolina -- has said that if we upgrade our infrastructure, they’ll bring even more jobs. And that’s the attitude of a lot of companies all around the world. And I know you want these job-creating projects in your district; I’ve seen all those ribbon-cuttings.

Tonight, I propose a "Fix-It-First" program to put people to work as soon as possible on our most urgent repairs, like the nearly 70,000 structurally deficient bridges across the country. And to make sure taxpayers don't shoulder the whole burden, I'm also proposing a Partnership to Rebuild America that attracts private capital to upgrade what our businesses need most: modern ports to move our goods; modern pipelines to withstand a storm; modern schools worthy of our children. Let's prove that there is no better place to do business than the United States of America. And let's start right away.”

Here is a link to a related document “The President’s Plan for a Strong Middle Class & A Strong America”

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/sotu_2013_blueprint_embargo.pdf

It states:

Rebuild and upgrade our infrastructure so our businesses have the tools they need to compete: Since the President took office we have improved over 300,000 miles of U.S. roads, repaired or replaced over 22,000 bridges, and built or improved more than 6,000 miles of rail. But there’s more to be done, which is why the President is calling for: A “Fix it First” program to focus on our most urgent infrastructure repairs: Under this approach the President’s proposal for \$50 billion in frontloaded infrastructure investment includes \$40 billion that would be targeted to the most urgent upgrades, like the 70,000 structurally deficient bridges across the country. In addition, the President is continuing to call for a long-term increase in surface transportation and rail funding financed by reductions in spending due to ending the

wars, marking a major commitment to nation building here at home.

Leveraging private sector investment to create jobs by upgrading critical business infrastructure through a Partnership to Rebuild America:

The President is proposing policies aimed at increasing private sector investment that will create jobs upgrading critical business infrastructure, such as our transportation system, our power grid, and our oil and gas pipelines.