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Ohio Republican says a new highway bill can be worked out in 2010

Nervous Congressional Democrats could prevent such an action; LaHood still recommending a March 2011 date to tackle measure
February 8, 2010

Still fueled by Sen. Scott Brown's stunning victory in Massachusetts, Republicans became boisterous on Capitol Hill when it came to talking about a new six-year highway bill.

During a House Appropriations Committee hearing, Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-Ohio) challenged Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to redirect the White House's feeling on the measure.

According to Streetsblog Capitol Hill, LaTourette said, "... kicking this can down the road to March 2011 is irresponsible. It's time for leadership on this issue."

LaHood has recommended that Congress tackle funding shortcomings involving road and bridge work as late as March 2011 when a new Congress is in place. Many experts say if that does happen, a new bill probably will not surface until 2012.

LaTourette added that he could bring Republicans to the table now to come with a compromise on a new six-year highway bill. The latest extension of SAFETEA-LU expires on Feb. 28.

Congressional Democrats, however, seemed to have crawled into a shell following the Brown triumph, and many would probably oppose a raise in the federal gas tax, which seems to be the only feasible option.

Source: *Streetsblog Capitol Hill* February 8, 2010

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Reid strips Senate jobs bill

Majority leader offers \$90 billion package and less for public works construction
February 12, 2010

There will be a smaller jobs bill floating around the Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has proposed a measure that calls for \$90 billion and includes less funding for public works construction. A procedural vote on Reid's version is scheduled for Feb. 22. The latest extension for SAFETEA-LU expires on Feb. 28.

Reid's bill would extend the Highway Trust Fund through December 2010 and will offer a \$19.5 billion fix to be pulled from the General Fund. It also will reverse the controversial \$8.7 billion rescission of unobligated highway contract authority for state DOTs. However, Reid's measure does not include any new money for public works projects, while the House bill, which was passed last December, contains \$47 billion in additional spending on highways and other infrastructure programs.

The Senate, however, is planning on proposing more jobs bills in the near future.

Source: [Streetsblog Capitol Hill](#) February 12, 2010

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