

# NUMBERS TELL THE STORY: CONGRESS NEEDS TO FIX AMERICA'S CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE

## THE PROBLEM

**\$4 TRILLION** America's infrastructure has a backlog of more than \$4 trillion and received a D+ grade from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

**2X** A Common Good study, *Two Years, Not Ten Years*, found that red tape delays for infrastructure more than double the cost of large projects and dramatically harm the environment by prolonging pollution.

## THE CAUSE

**18 AGENCIES** Congress has delegated infrastructure permitting to 18 federal agencies.

**3.6%** Only 3.6% of the \$800 billion 2009 stimulus plan was used for transportation infrastructure because of the byzantine approval process.

**10,000 PAGES** Environmental impact statements now routinely exceed 10,000 pages, despite the Council on Environmental Quality mandating that they normally be less than 300 even for the most complex projects.

**47 PERMITS** Approval to raise the roadway of the Bayonne Bridge (from New York to New Jersey), which had virtually no environmental impact, required 47 permits from 19 federal and local agencies and an environmental review exceeding 20,000 pages.

**\$139 BILLION** Congress has not adequately funded America's infrastructure. The projected cumulative shortfall of the Highway Trust Fund will be \$139 billion by 2027.

## THE SOLUTION

**3 PAGES** Common Good has proposed *three pages of legislation* to restore clear lines of authority. The proposal empowers officials to determine the scope and adequacy of review, to intercede in inter-agency disputes, and to expedite lawsuits to keep projects moving. The proposal is available at [www.commongood.org](http://www.commongood.org).

**1-2 YEARS** Greener countries like Germany do environmental review and permitting on major projects in 1-2 years, giving officials responsibility to make needed decisions.

**\$1.5-\$1.8 BILLION** Congress should agree on a reasonable increase in the gas tax—which it hasn't done since 1993—and index it to inflation. Studies show that each one cent increase in the gas tax would generate anywhere from \$1.5-\$1.8 billion a year.

## THE PROMISE

**5:1** Rebuilding our road infrastructure would return \$5 on each \$1 invested.

**2,000,000 JOBS** Increased investment would generate upwards of two million jobs, while improving our competitiveness and creating a greener footprint.

**1 BIG BOTTLENECK** Only Congress can clear out its accumulated red tape and provide needed funding.



## IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ACT

Find out more at  
[www.commongood.org](http://www.commongood.org)  
[www.simplifygov.org](http://www.simplifygov.org)

