

Director's Notes

At the CRSI Annual Conference, attendees heard from James O'Keeffe regarding transportation funding and the issues facing Congress. He led the audience through the various scenarios leading to the conclusion that funding methods are likely to remain with gas taxes being the principal method of collection and that these are unlikely to be increased.



As discussed later in this newsletter, individual states are considering various funding mechanisms. For example, PennDOT, announced a plan to replace around 550 bridges in the next three years under a single construction contract by leveraging contractor financing and maintenance. Changes at the state levels seem more palatable to constituents as states can specifically indicate how money will be spent.

The impasse at the federal level and the ability at the state level to enact change now suggest that state legislatures are more important to the growth of transportation funding.

Do you know your state representatives?

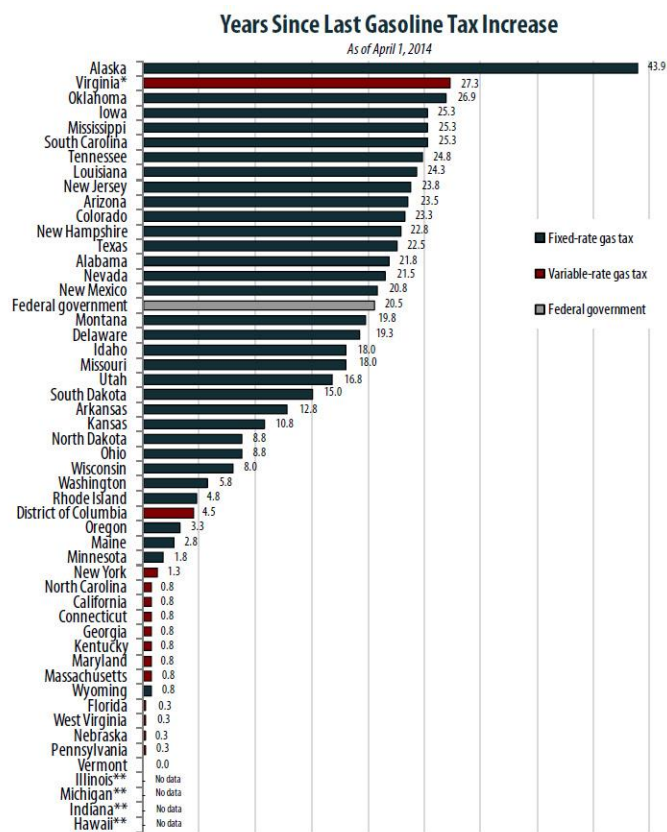
National Concrete Consortium

The National Concrete Consortium meeting (NCC) provides a gathering of principally pavement engineers from Department of Transportation and other members to discuss pavement performance. At this meeting Steve Trisch from JC Supply, along with Kevin McMullen from Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association (WCPA), presented proposed modifications to AASHTO M254/T253. These modifications were to be reviewed prior to the meeting by the ACPA Dowel Task Group; however, several members of this committee had not seen the proposal. Based upon the outcomes of the meeting, it appears that AASHTO M254/T253 will be modified to only include epoxy-coated dowels and not include other dowel types.

State Gas Taxes

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) released a new chart showing how long it's been since

many states have changed their gas tax policy. <http://www.itep.org/pdf/gastaxincreases0414.pdf> In about half the states, it has been a decade or more since they've changed their gas tax policy in spite of the changing costs for materials, machines, or projects overall.



* Virginia's gasoline tax was converted to 3.5 percent of wholesale gas prices effective in 2013, but this resulted in a decrease in the gas tax rate.
** These four states' gas tax rates change frequently because they apply their general sales tax to retail gas prices. Looking just at the gasoline excise tax, the number of years since the last gas tax increase took effect in these states is 24.3 in Illinois, 16.7 in Michigan, 11.3 in Indiana, and 6.8 in Hawaii.

Key findings include:

- Seven states have not seen an increase in their gas tax rate since the 1980s or earlier: Alaska, Virginia, Oklahoma, Iowa, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
- Sixteen states have gone two decades or more without a gas tax increase.
- Twenty-four states have gone a decade or more without an increase in their gas tax rate.
- Most states levying a more sustainable "variable-rate" gas tax, by contrast, have seen their gas tax rate rise some time in the last twelve months. These states include Virginia, New York, North Carolina, California,

Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts and Florida.



Certification

The upcoming changes to the CRSI Certification Program do not permit CRSI or the Inspection Agency (currently WJE) to provide consulting information on how to pass the certification program. The Epoxy Interest Group is stepping into this arena and providing additional information for our members.

A webcast was held on April 7, 2014 to provide additional information on the development of Plant Quality Control Manuals. EIG is proceeding with development of a Coating Manual template and will be making this available to members in May 2014. EIG will also be developing an Epoxy Fabrication Manual.

Please let EIG know if you have questions regarding any changes in the certification programs.

Utah Department of Transportation

EIG was pleased to present at a four-hour seminar to approximately 80 personnel from the Utah Department of Transportation. This seminar was arranged by Brent Toller from Western Coating. The seminar covered corrosion, history, lab and field results and was similar to that provided to Illinois Department of Transportation. Since the meeting, EIG met several UDOT personnel that were at the meeting and they indicated that the training was invaluable.

EIG would be pleased to provide more of these seminars, building awareness of the progress in coating specifications and improvements that have been made along with appropriate field inspection and production. In order to conduct these talks we need local champions, offering such training to the individual DOTs. Please let me know if you wish further information.



PCI Committee Days/AASHTO T-10, Chicago, IL

EIG attended the bridge sessions held at the PCI Committee days meeting in Chicago. Attendees at this meeting include a core number of DOT engineers, including representatives from Wisconsin, Texas, Florida, California and Minneapolis. Developing long-term relationships with these key organizations help in understanding decisions being made within the agencies.

Project Profiles

EIG continues to expand its list of projects. In 2014, the following were added to the EIG website:

- Wonders of Wildlife/Bass Pro Headquarters, Springfield, MO
- Shenandoah River, Jefferson Co, WV
- Milton Madison, IN/KY
- Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- Washington ByPass, Washington, NC
- Harbor Center, Buffalo, NY
- Voinovich Bridge, Cleveland, OH
- Moses Wheeler Bridge, Stratford and Milford, CT

I have not been able to get the tonnage supplied to many of these projects. If you recognize any of these, or have new projects, please let EIG know.

Quote

Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out."

Robert Collier

Date	Event
May 5 – 8	ASTM, Toronto ON
May 14	FHWA CRRB Seminar, Topeka, KS
May 18 – 21	NTPEP, Greenville, SC
May 22	MinnDOT, Maplewood, (comma) MN
June 8 – 12	IBC, Pittsburgh, PA
June 22 – 26	AASHTO Bridge, Columbus, OH
July 27 – Aug 1	AASHTO Materials, Minneapolis, MN