

BuildAmerica

The Choice for Congress: Creating Jobs vs. Destroying Jobs

America's roads and bridges – once the envy of the world – are congested, aging and desperately in need of repair. Meanwhile, the construction industry faces Depression-era unemployment, with more than 1.1 million men and women jobless. Congress can address these problems by passing legislation to invest in our transportation systems and create jobs, but a Republican proposal in the U.S. House of Representatives would actually make things worse.

Our economy depends on a safe, efficient transportation system – 10 percent of America's gross domestic product is tied to moving goods and people. Yet according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, our roads and bridges are in a state of crisis.

- Nearly a fourth of our roads – 66 million miles of them – are in poor condition. More than one in four bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.
- Traffic congestion costs commuters and businesses \$170 billion a year due to 4 billion hours in delays, the DOT's chief economist has determined. Congestion also wastes 4 billion gallons of gas every year.
- Our bridges are typically built to last 50 years. The average U.S. bridge is 43 years old, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. Time is running out.

Our roads and bridges are crumbling even though there are men and women desperately in need of work and who are ready to rebuild them.

- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, more than 1 million construction workers are unable to find work. The industry's unemployment rate is nearly 15 percent.
- The construction industry has lost over 2 million jobs since 2006 and shows no sign of recovering in the near future.

Congress is considering legislation to invest in roads and bridges, but House Republicans are pursuing a plan that would destroy jobs, fail to address transportation needs, and further cripple our economy. It's time for Congress to put one and one together.

- The plan supported by House Republican leaders is a jobs-killer – in a year, it would eliminate 630,000 jobs, including 490,000 highway jobs and slash transportation investment by more than a third, despite pressing needs.
- The Senate is considering a proposal that puts one and one together – matching men and women who need work with the work that America needs to have done.