



Media Coverage: *Falling Apart and Falling Behind*

Wall Street Journal: Transportation Spending Is the Right Stimulus (op-ed by former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and Mesa, AZ Mayor Scott Smith)

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904140604576496430721692282.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

During this time of economic uncertainty and record federal deficits, many question why America should invest aggressively in infrastructure. The answer is simple: Whether it involves highways, railways, ports, aviation or any other sector, infrastructure is an economic driver that is essential for the long-term creation of quality American jobs.

The Hill: Ed Rendell, Mesa, Ariz. mayor argue transportation spending is 'right stimulus'

<http://thehill.com/blogs/transportation-report/highways-bridges-and-roads/176443-ed-rendell-mesa-ariz-mayor-argue-transportation-spending-is-right-stimulus>

..."Unfortunately, our position as the world leader in infrastructure has begun to erode after years of misdirected federal priorities," they wrote. "When it comes to transportation, Washington has been on autopilot for the last half-century. Instead of tackling the hard choices facing our nation and embracing innovations, federal transportation policy still largely adheres to an agenda set by President Eisenhower.

MSNBC's Morning Joe: Rendell, Bloomberg Discuss Nation's Infrastructure

http://mikebloomberg.com/index.cfm?objectid=A9E806CC-C29C-7CA2-FFBA23E35FF9939E&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=social

Mayor Bloomberg and former Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell discuss a new report on infrastructure from the Building America's Future Educational Fund. Bloomberg and Rendell serve as co-chairs of the group, which is a bipartisan coalition of elected officials dedicated to bringing about a new era of U.S. investment in infrastructure that enhances the nation's prosperity and quality of life.

NPR's Diane Rehm Show: Rendell Discusses Nation's Infrastructure

http://thedianerehmshow.org/shows/2011-08-08/rebuilding-america?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+WAMU885DianeRehm+%28The+Diane+Rehm+Show+from+WAMU+and+NPR%29&utm_content=Twitter

President Obama called for renewed efforts in nation building recently -- not in Afghanistan or Iraq -- but here, at home, in America. The president was referring to the state of the country's aging and in many cases, poorly maintained infrastructure. More than a quarter of the country's bridges need significant repairs. Over four thousand dams are considered "unsafe". A billion gallons of water is lost every year due to leaking pipes. Nearly everyone agrees that more spending on infrastructure is needed, the billion-dollar question is -- how are we going to pay for it.

The Daily: Roads to recovery

<http://www.thedaily.com/page/2011/08/09/080911-opinions-column-infrastructure-salam-1-2/>

...But far from being out of step, the Building America's Future report couldn't be better timed. Led by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Govs. Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania and Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, Building America's Future is offering a way out of America's economic doldrums.



Washington Post: This is why your flight is delayed

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/this-is-why-your-flight-is-delayed/2011/08/10/gIQAAbXk6I_blog.html

...Nationwide, about 37 percent of all delays can be chalked up to outdated technology. In some cities, it's worse: Two-thirds of all airport delays in the New York City area are due to air-traffic control, and, in an irritating game of dominoes, those delays then trigger delays at other airports across the country. In 2007, the Joint Economic Committee pegged the cost of all this waiting at \$41 billion per year. Building America's Future is essentially arguing that having Congress spend more money on infrastructure could, in many cases, pay for itself.

E&E's Greenwire: \$200B a year needed for transportation, energy -- report

<http://www.eenews.net/gw/>

Congress should develop a long-term infrastructure strategy -- and should even consider transportation and energy investment as part of the deficit reduction talks -- to prevent falling further behind economic competitors, according to a new report out today... "There are always excuses to delay tough decisions, but the time has come for the U.S. to commit to a long-term infrastructure revitalization plan that invests at least \$200 billion a year," said former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell (D), co-chairman of BAF. "At a time when our nation is crying out for job creation, this plan can produce millions of good-paying American jobs over a sustained period of time."

National Review Online: Infrastructure Spending Can Pay for Itself

<http://www.nationalreview.com/agenda/274017/infrastructure-spending-can-pay-itself-reihan-salam#>

Building America's Future has released its proposal to sharply increase infrastructure spending over the next decade... the report makes a number of convincing points, particularly on the wisdom of embracing congestion charges and truck tolling.

San Diego Union Tribune: Infrastructure stimulus spending idea returns (CA)

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/aug/11/infrastructure-stimulus-spending-idea-returns/>

..."An awful lot of people are coming around to the conclusion that we need to think about the debt and investment in the country and they are not necessarily contradictory," said Marcia L. Hale, president of Building America's Future. "For the long term, we have to deal with the country, entitlements, defense spending, and that all should be done. By the same token you've got to invest in the country much like we did in the '50s and '60s and built the world's best transportation system."

AHN News: Gas Tax Renewal Runs into Deficit Reduction Plans in Congress

<http://www.dbune.com/news/business/7677-gas-tax-renewal-runs-into-deficit-reduction-plans-in-congress.html>

...The gas tax debate will begin on the heels of a new report announced by state governors this week that says low U.S. infrastructure spending is threatening the nation's international competitiveness. "There are always excuses to delay tough decisions, but the time has come for the U.S. to commit to a long-term infrastructure revitalization plan that invests at least \$200 billion a year," said former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell (D). He suggested the money also be used for water systems, dams, the electric grid and a broadband system. "At a time when our nation is crying out for job creation, this plan can produce millions of good-paying American jobs over a sustained period of time," Rendell said.



Twin Cities Daily Planet: Another shutdown on the horizon (MN)

<http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/news/2011/08/11/opinion-another-shutdown-horizon>

"Our long-term economic prospects will only get weaker the longer Congress allows our infrastructure to crumble," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a news release this week for Building America's Future, the tripartisan advocacy group he co-chairs with former Govs. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California and Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania. "As Congress stands idly by, our competitors around the world are racing ahead."

The Times-Tribune: Rendell touts need for infrastructure spending (PA)

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/rendell-touts-need-for-infrastructure-spending-1.1186077#axzz1UXS0ctNr>

Washington needs to pay as much attention in the coming months to rebuilding the nation's highways, rail lines, airports and ports as tackling remaining federal debt issues, former Gov. Ed Rendell said Monday upon the release of a report by a bipartisan coalition he helped form.

Huffington Post: Bloomberg, Schwarzenegger: U.S. Must Modernize Its Infrastructure, Invest In High-Speed Rail

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/11/infrastructure-bloomberg-schwarzenegger-high-speed-rail_n_924280.html

With GDP languishing and job-creation rates well below what's needed to put the economy back on track, the key to recovery lies with American infrastructure, says a bipartisan group headed by Michael Bloomberg and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Journal of Commerce: Rendell: "Super Committee" May Boost Transport Spending

<http://www.joc.com/infrastructure/rendell-super-committee-may-boost-transport-spending>

Former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell said Monday a congressional "super committee" appointed to find ways to cut the federal deficit may find that spending more on U.S. infrastructure a worthy investment. "It's our hope that sometime between now and Thanksgiving when the special super committee reports that it will look at not just deficit reduction, but what we need to keep America competitive, and what we need to create jobs," Rendell said. "If they do, we hope they will recommend this kind of long-term program."

Infrastructurist: A Plan to Save U.S. Infrastructure That Might Actually Work

<http://www.infrastructurist.com/2011/08/11/a-plan-to-save-u-s-infrastructure-that-might-actually-work>

Those that do emerge will have a hard time presenting a stronger plan for building America's infrastructure future than the one released earlier this week by the bipartisan advocacy group Building America's Future. The report, "Falling Apart and Falling Behind" (pdf), is split into three sections, but as its title suggests it really centers on two themes: how American infrastructure has fallen apart in recent times, and how it can keep from falling farther behind.

DC Streetsblog: Report: Get Out of the Highway-Obsessed Eisenhower Era

<http://dc.streetsblog.org/2011/08/08/report-get-out-of-the-highway-obsessed-eisenhower-era/>

Building America's Future, led by former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, has added their voice to the chorus calling for greater investment in U.S. infrastructure, lest the country fall behind its global competitors. In a new report, Falling Apart and Falling Behind, BAF recommends more focus on mass transit, a switch away from formula funding without performance requirements, and more emphasis on metropolitan areas.



Transportation Nation: Rendell: Congress Should "Take a Deep Breath" and Pass Infrastructure Bank Now

<http://transportationnation.org/2011/08/08/rendell-congress-should-take-a-deep-breath-and-pass-infrastructure-bank-now/>

That the group Building America's Future thinks the U.S. should be investing more money in infrastructure is about as shocking as 90 degree temps in August, but in a conference call announcing the release of its new report: "Falling Apart and Falling Behind," former PA Governor Ed Rendell, one of BAF's chairs, gave a particularly urgent call to arms on an infrastructure bank, which would leverage federal funds to funnel private investment into roads, bridges, transit, and rail.

Grist: Wall Street Journal uses infrastructure as excuse to tell Tea Party to shove it

<http://www.grist.org/list/2011-08-11-wall-street-journal-uses-infrastructure-as-excuse-to-tell-tea-pa>

The surprisingly powerful op-ed, written by Ed Rendell (Democrat, former governor of Pennsylvania) and Scott Smith (Republican mayor of Mesa, Ariz.), advances the notion that transportation is the one thing our government should be spending money on, even in this economic climate.

Smart Planet: 4 recommendations for smarter American infrastructure

<http://www.smartplanet.com/blog/business-brains/4-recommendations-for-smarter-american-infrastructure/17802>

...The coalition, called the Building America's Future Educational Fund, doesn't mince words, suggesting that America's infrastructure is "falling apart" and that the economy is at peril because of this. For example, the declining infrastructure now costs American families an average of \$1,000 annually in vehicle repairs, wasted time and so on.

Progressive Railroading: Bipartisan coalition calls for major investment in U.S. infrastructure

http://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal_legislation_regulation/news/Bipartisan-coalition-calls-for-major-investment-in-US-infrastructure--27568

Yesterday, Building America's Future Educational Fund, a bipartisan and national infrastructure coalition, released a report that examines the economic challenges posed by the United States' ailing transportation infrastructure. Titled "Falling Apart and Falling Behind," the report reviews "smart investments" being made by international economic competitors and provides recommendations for crafting new transportation policies that will spur U.S. economic growth.

Infrastructure USA: Building America's Future: Falling Apart and Falling Behind

<http://www.infrastructureusa.org/building-americas-future-falling-apart-and-falling-behind/>

Rebuilding America's economic foundation is one of the most important missions we face in the 21st century. Our parents and grandparents built America into the world's leading economic superpower. We have a responsibility to our own children and grandchildren to strengthen-not squander -that inheritance, and to pass on to them a country whose best days are still ahead.

Citybiz Real Estate: Bipartisan Coalition Releases Infrastructure Report: "Falling Apart and Falling Behind"

<http://dcreatestate.citybizlist.com/5/2011/8/8/Bipartisan-Coalition-Releases-Infrastructure-Report-%E2%80%9CFalling-Apart-and-Falling-Behind%E2%80%9D.aspx>

Building America's Future Educational Fund - a bipartisan and national infrastructure coalition co-chaired by Mayor Michael Bloomberg (I-NYC), former Governor Ed Rendell (D-PA) and former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA) - today released a new report that lays out the economic challenges posed by America's ailing infrastructure.



eNews USA: Building America's Future: Falling Apart & Falling Behind

<http://enewsusa.blogspot.com/2011/08/building-americas-future-falling-apart.html>

...Mayor Bloomberg (I-NYC), BAFEF co-chair said, "In Washington, everyone is talking about the need to fix the economy, but our long-term economic prospects will only get weaker the longer Congress allows our infrastructure to crumble. As Congress stands idly by, our competitors around the world are racing ahead -- especially when it comes to building modern transportation networks. Washington needs to get into gear transforming our infrastructure or else our economy will be stalling out for decades to come."

WePartyPatriots.com: "Rebuilding our infrastructure goes hand in hand with how to reinvigorate our economy."

<http://wepartypatriots.com/wp/2011/08/10/the-issue-of-rebuilding-our-nation%E2%80%99s-infrastructure-is-one-that-should-go-hand-in-hand-with-talks-on-how-to-reinvigorate-our-economy>

Building America's Future (BAF), a bipartisan, national infrastructure coalition co-chaired by Mayor Michael Bloomberg (I-NYC), former Governor Ed Rendell (D-PA) and former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA), has released shocking new numbers that show how far behind America's investment in infrastructure is lagging.

BLOOMBERG TV - 08/08/2011 20:23:05 - 8:33:05 PM

I just heard mayor Michael Bloomberg this morning talk about the fact that in new York city over the last 10 years, of the 250 bridges that were falling apart, most of them, when he took office, all but four have been totally redone, and four are under construction, and that is without federal money or state money. In other words, this mayor committed himself to the infrastructure of this city in order to make this city great and continue to be great, and I think that is the kind of activity that we're seeing around the country.

MSNBC - Chris Matthews - 08/08/2011 17:03:01 - 5:13:01 PM

Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell and Michael Steele former republican chairman. we need details. governor, thank you for coming on and i have the question before us. you watched the president today. you know the fix we're all in right now. the market is down 2,000 points in less than two weeks and it may not stop going down. how did he do today as the leader of the country? i thought he just gave us words. he's got to give specifics, details and lead. do exactly has you say. he's got to be able to convince the country first, yes, we've got to reduce the debt and deficit and we've got to make -- cuts to entitlements, defense and in fact races revenue from the sources you indicated. at the same time, we've got to invest to get this economy going, to create jobs in the short run and long run economic competitiveness. that's why today the organization i head with mayor bloomberg, building america's future, we unveiled our plan. our plans calls for a ten-year infrastructure plan spending \$200 billion more each and every year on infrastructure. that's not just federal money. that's all money. federal, local, state, private investment. but \$200 billion more. that will produce 5 million jobs each and every year for the next ten years...back to governor rendell. where we are, my two-step plan. simple. real jobs. infrastructure, smart word. even narrow it down to construction jobs on sewer and water and bridges and road stuff that everybody uses every day when they flush the toilet, turn on the faucet. every day they go across a bridge, ride down a road. everybody knows this stuff is fallen to hell and real work no funny work... absolutely. not just construction jobs on 9 site, manufacturing jobs. manufacturing last week, that's what infrastructure does. you're right. the president's got to stop worrying about politics. this idea somehow we're going to win the election running against representative ryan's budget and the medicare plan, when the people are looking for the president to lead. if he leads, if he did exactly what you said, and if he put that plan together and we got a big deal and cut \$4 trillion off the deficit and invested in infrastructure and research an development, if we put that august together, he would look like a great leader. a landslide victory.



MSNBC - Morning Joe - 08/08/2011 07:35:40 - 7:45:40 AM

BRZEZINSKI: All right, Ed and Mayor Bloomberg you have an infrastructure report. Ed just presented this to me. You, guys, are putting it together, building America's future, falling apart and falling behind. Do we want to talk about how we're falling behind or the ideas of building the future?

BLOOMBERG: Well, we're already behind.

BRZEZINSKI: Yes, way behind.

BLOOMBERG: And we're getting worse. But we've managed to do that in education, as well with infrastructure. We've managed to do that (inaudible) in our capital as compared to other people. You just read the headlines today.

RENDELL: No question. And the mayor has always said -- when the recession first hit, the mayor said just because the economy is in trouble, that doesn't mean we stop investing in growth. And that's the key message.

And we talked about that before you got on there. The plan that we're laying out is get an additional \$200 billion a year for the next 10 years. Remember last week, Joe, you were saying, infrastructure doesn't work because when you do a short-term stimulus, it's just patching puddles (ph).

SCARBOROUGH: Right.

RENDELL: Correct. Every major country that's done infrastructure repairs, done it for seven years or 10 years, 10-year program, \$200 billion a year, we can easily use that, creates five million well-paying jobs each and every year for the next...

SCARBOROUGH: Yes, it's insane. You just go around New York. You talk about all the people coming to the city. You drive around outside of Manhattan, the two lane roads where they should be eight. Ten-lane roads, you drive through Connecticut, two-laned, 95 through...

BLOOMBERG: Most of our airports can't handle it. And we're a third-world country compared to what you see elsewhere, as our ports can't handle the new ships being built. Literally, I think something like five out of the biggest eight ports in the world are now in Asia. Panama is building a new canal to handle ships, not clear any of those could enter any of our harbors. And you go right down all this, there's 20 (ph) others. But it's all symptomatic, Joe.

We start out and they'll listen to the dialogue in Washington. They start out at the bottom rather than the top. The way government should work is the way business works. You start out, what do we need, absolutely have to have...

SCARBOROUGH: Right.

BLOOMBERG: ... not we'd like but what do we have to have. And then, how can we do it? And what is it going to cost and then go find the ways to pay for it. We start out at the bottom. We're going to spend this amount of money.

It's insanity. That's not the way stability...

SCARBOROUGH: So let's say Bloomberg, let's pretend that your company wasn't extraordinarily successful. Let's just pretend that you had one or two bad years, which you just never had.

Would it not be insane if you said if you having a hard time, we're going to cut R&D? We're going to cut education. We're going to cut all the things that are going to make our systems more -- you can take care of long-term debt while investing...

BLOOMBERG: If you don't invest in a long-term business, short term tomorrow. I mean, bottom line is you can't do that. If you look at what New York did in the 1970s, they got into trouble.

And they cut back all of those programs, which essentially contributed to unemployment, which reduced the tax base. It's a spiral down. And you can't do that.

The time to go and invest is in the tough times. And you're going to build, for example, concrete's cheaper. Steel is cheaper. Labor is available.



RENDELL (?): Interest rates (inaudible)

SCARBOROUGH: You know what, why don't we just go to 5th and 34th and look at the Empire State Building, the building we're in right now...

BLOOMBERG: All the great buildings were built in the down times when people had the courage to go ahead and do it. That's the time to build. At the top is not the time to do it. And yet, that's when everybody says, oh, now we can afford it.

So when people say, things are tough, we can't afford this run. That's what capital budgets are for. You borrow in the down times as you don't have the ordinary income coming in, with recurring revenues coming in. But you make the investments so that when you get out of that, you have the infrastructure, whether it's a building or a school or a bridge or in education, so that in the good times, you will generate a lot more economic activity.

BRZEZINSKI: And yet, New York City, though, is having similar problems that we've seen some governors grabbling (ph) with and certainly, the portrait of dysfunctionality that we're seeing in Washington, I'm sure you saw the...

BLOOMBERG: Well, I'm OK. New York actually is doing reasonably well. We have our problems. Our tax revenues are not what they were in '07. But we have, for example -- and I look because I knew you were going to talk about infrastructure.

We have 787 bridges in New York City. Only four are rated poor. And all four of those are being redone. We have gone and redone 200 bridges in the last 10 years with city taxpayer dollars because the state didn't come through and the federal government didn't come through.

They did a little bit and often...

SCARBOROUGH (?): Right.

BLOOMBERG: ... they say thank you for the money. We always like to get it although it is our money. What's interesting is you take a look at which states are sending a lot more to Washington than when they get back.

SCARBOROUGH (?): Right.

BLOOMBERG: And that's one of the great inequalities in our country. And...

FORD (?): What the big disparity with New York, Mayor?

BLOOMBERG: New York, Illinois, Ohio, states like that, spend a lot more...

FORD (?): Than we get?

BLOOMBERG: Yes, Kentucky and a whole bunch of some states get it. You know, you can blame the Congressional delegation. You can blame -- sometimes it's timing, in all fairness. The federal government doesn't do everything wrong.

But fundamentally, we say OK, everybody's going to get something. Otherwise, you can't get it through Congress. That's not true that that's the best thing for your future. Sometimes the big port cities have to have more money.

Otherwise, the economy nationwide is not going to be good. So even though nothing is built in one state, what's built in another state will benefit that. And you can't get back through Congress in this day and age.

SCARBOROUGH: So Mr. Mayor, let's talk about another investment because I've the argument that you can strip the morality part out of investing, because Republicans always said, we're accountants.

Democrats have said let's do the right thing. Well, you could even strip the do the right thing out of it and start talking about our competition with China, Brazil, India, other emerging nations and start thinking, we have to do this for our own protection, to make sure that this century, we're going to thrive.