

Transportation Secretary: 'America is one big pothole right now'

By [Ned Resnikoff](#)

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Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood appeared on Tuesday's edition of *Hardball* to urge Congress to invest in repairing America's crumbling infrastructure.

"Everybody has a bridge in their district that's not safe," he told *Hardball* host Chris Matthews.

A 2009 report by the Associated Press said that more than 150,000 bridges nationwide had been labelled "deficient or obsolete." Of those, only 1,286 had been marked to receive stimulus money for repairs. According to the group Transportation for America, there are now **nearly 600,000 structurally deficient bridges** in the United States, or one out of every nine bridges in the entire country.

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), who also appeared on the show, co-sponsored a bill in the Senate that would invest more money in transportation infrastructure. Currently, a conference committee is trying to reconcile it with a similar bill passed through the House. According to another Transportation for America report, cited by Chris Matthews on the show, Boxer's bill would create three million jobs, while the House bill would cut 500,000.

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