



Subscribe to the Houston Chronicle | Shopping | Classifieds | Obits | Place an Ad | La Voz

Like 95k

Register | Sign In

Wednesday July 2, 2014

Houston Weather

Search

Chron.com Local Directory

Home | Local | US & World | Sports | Business | Entertainment | Lifestyle | Jobs | Cars

Real Estate



The Highwayman

Transportation in Houston with Dug Begley

TxDOT can borrow in event federal funding delayed

Posted on July 1, 2014 | By Dug Begley

PRINT 2

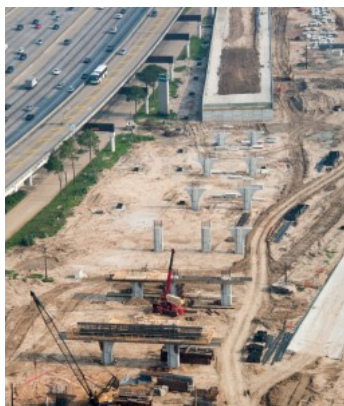
Local Home Remodelers

homeadvisor.com/Contractors

Find Local Licensed Contractors. Get Free Bids at HomeAdvisor Today!

Highway projects in Texas will keep chugging along, but on borrowed money, if federal funds start to run dry.

The solution, however, is a temporary one.



Construction at interchange of Loop 610 and U.S. 290 on May 17, 2013. Photo: Smiley N. Pool / Houston Chronicle

Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx informed state transportation officials across the country that a possible depletion of the Highway Trust Fund, predicted for late August, would force officials to **change how money flows from Washington to the states**. The trust fund has been on the verge of collapse occasionally for the past five years, but the situation has worsened. Payments to state transportation agencies will decline starting Aug. 1.

“There is still time for Congress to act on a long term solution,” Foxx said in a **release**. “Our transportation infrastructure is too essential to suffer continued neglect, and I hope Congress will avert this crisis before it is too late.” Rather than repay money when states file requests for funds already spent, federal officials will dole out whatever money is coming into the trust fund from gas tax revenues, Foxx said. Money will be divided by the same formula used to spread highway money among the states in proportion to their population.

Under that formula, Texas receives **8.77 percent of federal funds**. In the current fiscal year, ending Sept. 30, that was estimated to be \$3.33 billion.

Current projects will not be affected should federal money run dry, said Veronica Beyer, spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Transportation.

2014 Grant Applications

newusafunding.com

New Funding Released All the Time.
Deadlines Approaching. Apply Now

Home Contractors

homeadvisor.com/Contractors

Find Local Licensed Contractors at HomeAdvisor. Free Bids Today!

“Thanks to the Texas Legislature, we have a tool that allows us to borrow money on a short-term basis during the continued instability of the federal Highway Trust Fund,” Beyer said in a statement. “TxDOT will continue progress on active projects.”

Incurring debt, however, can only get Texas so far, and delays in funding limit when the next round of construction begins.

"It's imperative Congress enact a long-term solution to the looming federal funding situation," Beyer said.

Categories: [Costs](#) , [gas tax](#) , [General](#) , [Highways](#) , [politics](#) | [More](#)

2014 Grant Applications

newsafunding.com

New Funding Released All the Time. Deadlines Approaching. Apply Now

PRINT 2

You Might Also Like



Emirates airlines cancels order for 70 Airbus A350 jets
Fortune



What Your Last Name Means
Ancestry.com



These three dudes in stilettos can dance just as good as Beyonce
Blue Nation Review



You CANNOT MISS the 21 Things Nobody Tells You When You Move Out of Texas
RantLifestyle

From Around the Web

- **5 States that Will Take the Most of Your Paycheck in Income Taxes** (Monster)
- **Rick Santorum has a few thoughts about who should vote** (Blue Nation Review)
- **13+ Things You Shouldn't Eat at a Restaurant** (Reader's Digest)
- **Harry Reid Fails to Inform the Public About the Koch Brothers**
 (Washington Post)
- **The Costliest Private Jets Owned by Celebrities** (Worthy)
- **Here's Why Hillary Clinton Is No Longer Dominating the Polls** (Wall St. Cheat Sheet)

We Recommend

- **Burrito battles: Daily Meal snubs H-Town, but Breakfast Burrito Anonymous wins its bracket at FiveThirtyEight**
- **Rockets begin free agency period with meeting with Kyle Lowry**
- **Report: Carmelo Anthony to meet with Rockets**
- **Nick Johnson finds familiar face with Rockets**
- **Rockets make it official with Josh Powell**
- **Bigger, better Interstate 45 coming together outside Beltway**

Recommended by

(2) Comments

powered by:



Write your comment here

[Record video](#) [Upload video](#) [Upload image](#)

Submit

Follow

Newest



abnormis Rank 846

yeh I want new bumper sticker--"I just hit another pot hole--thanks a lot Tea Party #!* - hole"

20 hours ago 0 Likes

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Muhayerboy Rank 2093

@abnormis Where did you hit the pot hole? In Houston I presume. If so, thank the last few DemocRatic Administrations in Houston.