



Just like the 1949 Hudson car that personifies its fight, the Dire States tour made some noise while in Texas last week.

The sponsor of the Dire States initiative, Case Construction Equipment partnered with dealer ASCO Equipment and the Texas Good Roads and Transportation Association to bring the tour to the Lone Star State in support of Proposition 1. Also known as the Texas Transportation Funding Amendment, Prop 1 would direct about \$1.4 billion annually from oil and gas tax revenues in the state's Rainy Day Fund. The amendment will be on the Nov. 4 ballot and would support investment in new highway/transportation construction and maintenance. "Like much of the country, Texas has underinvested in infrastructure," says Lawrence Olsen, executive vice president, [Texas Good Roads](#). "This amendment will serve as a good first step in providing new methods of investment — but it's just that: a first step. Many state and independent organizations report significant funding gaps for years to come to simply maintain road and bridge maintenance/congestion at 2010 levels. Now is the time to build a



better infrastructure for future generations.”

As a construction equipment dealer with 20 locations throughout Texas, [ASCO Equipment](#) recognizes the need for investment and the effect that it has on jobs and the state economy. “There is a need for investment, and with that investment will come thousands of skilled jobs and increased investment in everything from manufacturing to aggregate production,” says Kirby Carpenter, ASCO strategic account manager. “Infrastructure investment is a proven economy builder and this amendment is a much-needed shot in the arm for infrastructure investment in Texas.”

*A crowd gathers around the "sign of the times" — a 1949 Hudson car — during a Dire States tour stop in Brownwood, Texas.*

Dire States is a grassroots effort by equipment manufacturing giant Case to raise awareness for the role that state and local governments play in securing infrastructure investment, through legislative initiatives, public-private partnerships (P3s), state revolving funds and other innovative funding methods. The effort kicked off with a nationwide tour in 2013 in 2014 by author and infrastructure expert Dan McNichol, shown in [this video](#). McNichol circumnavigated the country in a 1949 Hudson that is as “old, rusty and energy-defunct” as much of America’s infrastructure.

Dire States made its first pass through Texas in January, and Case immediately saw a correlation between the tour’s message and challenges facing Texas. Last week’s visit featured McNichol and his 1949 Hudson, as well as speakers from Texas Good Roads, ASCO Equipment and other partner associations throughout the state. The blitz included seven events in three days, starting with the Texas Good Roads Annual Meeting in Austin and ending with a reception at the Travel Center in Wichita Falls.

“While we fully support and recognize the need for infrastructure investment at the federal level, states and municipalities must stand up and find new ways to invest to achieve safe and modern infrastructure systems,” says Jim Hasler, vice president, Case Construction Equipment. “This includes everything from roads and bridges to energy transportation/distribution, ports, waste systems and transit. Texas has recognized this need and is taking a great step with this ballot initiative, and Case and Dire States will be here to support it.”

A brand of CNH Industrial N.V., the Racine, Wis.-based [Case Construction Equipment](#) sells and supports a full line of machine types and models throughout the world, including loader/backhoes, excavators, motor graders, wheel loaders, vibratory compactors, crawler dozers, skid steers, compact track loaders and rough-terrain forklifts.

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