

NATIONAL

Digital subscriptions
SUBSCRIBE

In the News | Calif. bus crash | Stephen Colbert | Amy Purdy | Cherry blossoms | 'Mad Men'



U.S. rallied response after bank cyberattack



Thousands lose tax refunds to family debt



Why Colbert is the smart choice



PHOTOS | D.C.'s cherry blossoms bloom!

Senators outline bipartisan transportation bill, but others will have to find a way to pay for it

By Ashley Halsey III, Published: April 10 | [E-mail the writer](#)

With a crisis looming for transportation funding this year, a bipartisan quartet of U.S. Senate leaders emerged Thursday to say they had outlined a long-term proposal to replace funding that expires Oct. 1.

While the four senators — two Democrats and two Republicans — agreed on the principles that would serve as the bedrock for a new transportation bill, they left to others the critical question that has hamstrung transportation for several years: how to pay for it.

Watch Antenna TV
www.aereo.com
 Live HD Broadcast TV Online w/Aereo No cable required. DAL Area Only.

Free Beat Maker

music-oasis.com/Free

Create Your Own Beats Like a Pro. Download Digital DJ Today!

The Post Most: National

- 1 Lab-grown vaginas successfully implanted in mice in tissue



Recommended

White House to Iran: No visa for UN envoy pick



- 3 At least nine killed in California as truck collides with busload of students

- 4 Harvard journal says "Gospel of Jesus's Wife" is ancient, not a modern forgery

- 5 The sea-rescue mission that saved a sick infant carries one hefty pricetag

Don't miss a single story! **SUBSCRIBE**

Resources for your commute

What major overhauls are needed to improve the Metro system?

CROWD SOURCED | Share your ideas for making the system better. Leave comments and upvote others.

Follow Dr. Gridlock on Twitter

Get the latest news that will affect your commute.

Read more from Dr. Gridlock

The blog is your transportation guide to the Beltway and beyond.

[More transportation news](#)

Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.), chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, said the agreement would “enable and encourage our colleagues in the House and Senate to actually be able to do the tough, heavy lifting, that is, to figure out how to pay for the work we really need to do.”

Despite that hole in the doughnut, the agreement is a significant sign of progress in a year when little action had been expected until after the November elections.

“We can act well before our deadline in July or August,” said Sen. David Vitter (R-La.), ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

That deadline is the [projected time](#) that the Highway Trust Fund, which provides the federal portion of highway and transit funding, will be able to meet its obligations. Its primary source of income, the federal [gas tax](#), no longer generates enough money to pay those bills, and there [has been resistance](#) to all of the various [proposals](#) to bolster or replace it.

Get a digital subscription today **SUBSCRIBE**



Personal Post

Top recommendations for you

17h **FEDERAL BUDGET**
Social Security, Treasury target taxpayers for their parents' decades...



7d **FEDERAL BUDGET**
Top Democrats continue to hammer Paul Ryan's budget proposal



4 Ways to Avoid Running Out of Money During Retirement

If you have a \$500,000 portfolio, download the guide by *Forbes* columnist Ken Fisher's firm. Even if you have something else in place, this must-read guide includes research and analysis you can use right now. Don't miss it!

[Click Here to Download Your Guide!](#)

FISHER INVESTMENTS

If legislation moves forward in the Senate, it will fall to the commerce committee to come up with a funding solution. Funding for the current transportation bill was pieced together from several one-time sources by Max Baucus (D-Mont.), the former Finance Committee chairman who departed the Senate to become ambassador to China.

The effort announced Thursday was led by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), who chairs the Environment and Public Works Committee

"We, as leaders of this committee, have worked across party lines to act before the Highway Trust Fund cannot pay its bills," Boxer said. "At a time when 70,000 of our [nation's bridges](#) are structurally deficient and less than 50 percent of [our roads](#) are in good condition, we must act, and that is what we intend to do."

The fourth member of the working group, Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso (R), said the agreement called for a long-term bill — "ideally, six years" — of the sort favored by states, which want to know what level of federal funding to anticipate before they launch highway or transit projects that may take several years to complete.

No GMAT MBA Programs

www.gmat.degreeleap.com

Earn Your MBA from an Accredited Program. No GMAT Required. Apply.

It also would maintain the funding formulas for existing core programs, only allow spending to rise from current levels to keep pace with inflation, and pay special attention to rural areas.

"The principles we have agreed on will ensure that taxpayer money is wisely spent," Barrasso said.

The House transportation committee's chairman, Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), also has promised to deliver a transportation bill before the trust fund comes up short. His committee and subcommittees have held several hearings toward that end. The [White House](#) also has delivered a proposal.

[Get updates on your area delivered via e-mail](#)

No GMAT MBA Programs

www.gmat.degreeleap.com

Earn Your MBA from an Accredited Program. No GMAT Required. Apply.

Watch Antenna TV

www.aereo.com

Live HD Broadcast TV Online w/Aereo No cable required. DAL Area Only.

Get a digital subscription today **SUBSCRIBE**

Reprints

7 Comments

[Discussion Policy](#)



ibartels wrote:

1:48 PM CDT

No easy way to assign the costs of roadways exists. Among the factors are tire wear, proportional to weight of vehicle and miles driven. But wear related to weather, water, ice, heat and similar may be a larger factor in some areas than others. Many roads exist for access which have value which may not be proportional to usage and represents public or individual or group interests. Apportioning all of this by usage tax as we do

- 9d **FEDERAL BUDGET** Paul Ryan's final budget plan would slash \$5 trillion in next decade
- 9d **FEDERAL BUDGET** Ryan's last budget proposal would slash \$5 trillion over next decade
- 1h **FEDERAL BUDGET** The Fix: NASA is cutting ties with Russia. But it's not that simple.

[More headlines for you](#)

trending articles

The story behind that horrifying Emma Watson GIF is even weir...

Tennessee Legislature Passes Bill Criminalizing Pregnancy

Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher's really weird, self-referentia...

Today's Paper

[Full list of today's print stories »](#)

[View our e-Replica edition »](#)

[SUBSCRIBE »](#)

National Newsletters

Sign-up for e-mail newsletters and alerts and get the news you need delivered directly to your inbox.

- Economy & Business News Alerts**
- The Most**
- Behind the Government Showdown**
- Today's Headlines & Columnists**
- National News Alerts**

[Subscribe](#)

[See all Washington Post Newsletters](#)

Live Discussions

The Fix
Chat transcript
Chris Cillizza discussed the latest in politics, including the timing of Sebelius's resignation and Scott Brown's surprising poll numbers.

12:00 PM **CANCELED - Carolyn Hax Live (Friday, April 11)**

Earlier Today

11:00 AM **The Fix Live**

11:00 AM **Real Wheels Live**

[Weekly schedule, past shows](#)