

The original documents are located in Box 11, “7/7/75 - Talking Points: Highway Message” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TALKING POINTS FOR HIGHWAY MESSAGE

MONDAY, JULY 7, 1975

- 1 -

1. TWENTY YEARS AGO, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER LAUNCHED THIS NATION ON ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMS IN HISTORY -- CONSTRUCTION OF THE 42,500-MILE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM.

2. TODAY, EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM IS

OPEN TO TRAFFIC. IT HAS PROVEN VITAL TO THE NATION'S COMMERCIAL

PROSPERITY AND TO THE INDIVIDUAL MOBILITY OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.

3. THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND EXPIRES LATER THIS YEAR.

IN PREPARING MY HIGHWAY PROPOSAL, I CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH

GOVERNORS FROM ALL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY. I AM PARTICULARLY

PLEASED THAT LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE ARE HERE

WITH ME TODAY.

4. I AM RECOMMENDING LEGISLATION TO GIVE PRIORITY TO
COMPLETION OF KEY SEGMENTS OF THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM. THIS WILL
MAKE OUR HIGHWAY SYSTEM TRULY NATIONAL IN SCOPE BY LINKING CENTERS
OF POPULATION AND COMMERCE.

5. MY PROPOSAL WILL ALSO ENABLE STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS TO DEAL FAR MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH TRANSPORTATION
PROBLEMS IN THEIR AREAS. FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS WILL BE
SIMPLIFIED AND REDUCED.

6. THIS LEGISLATION WOULD ELIMINATE OVERLAPPING PROGRAMS AND EXTEND THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND BUT LIMIT ITS USE TO COMPLETION AND IMPROVEMENT OF JUST THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM. OTHER HIGHWAY PROJECTS RECEIVING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE FUNDED FROM THE GENERAL TREASURY.

7. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO SECRETARY COLEMAN AND THESE GOVERNORS WHO HELPED ME DEVELOP THIS HIGHWAY PROPOSAL. IF ENACTED INTO LAW, IT WILL BENEFIT ALL AMERICANS.

END OF TEXT

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