



AgEcon SEARCH

RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.

Trends in Federal Transportation Policy



Joshua Schank
President and CEO
Eno Center for Transportation

Presentation Outline

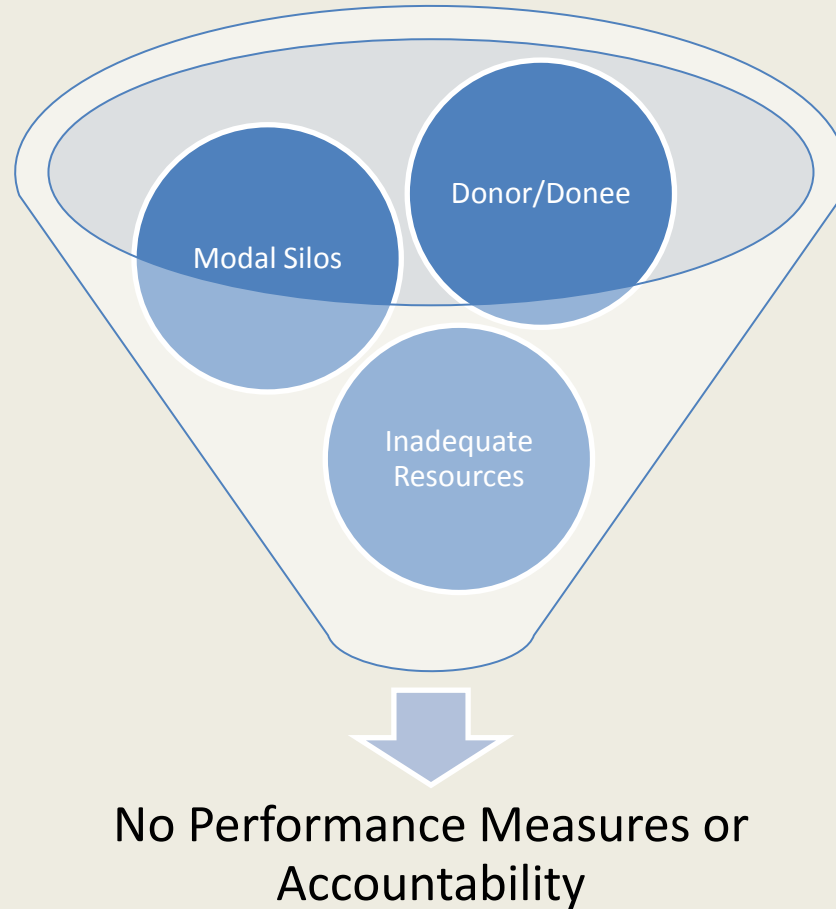
- How well does the existing policy work?
 - The need for reform
- What is on the table as far as next steps?
 - Current state of play
- What is likely to happen?
 - Congress is very predictable
- What can be done about it?
 - Transitioning to a performance based system

**How well does the existing policy
work?**

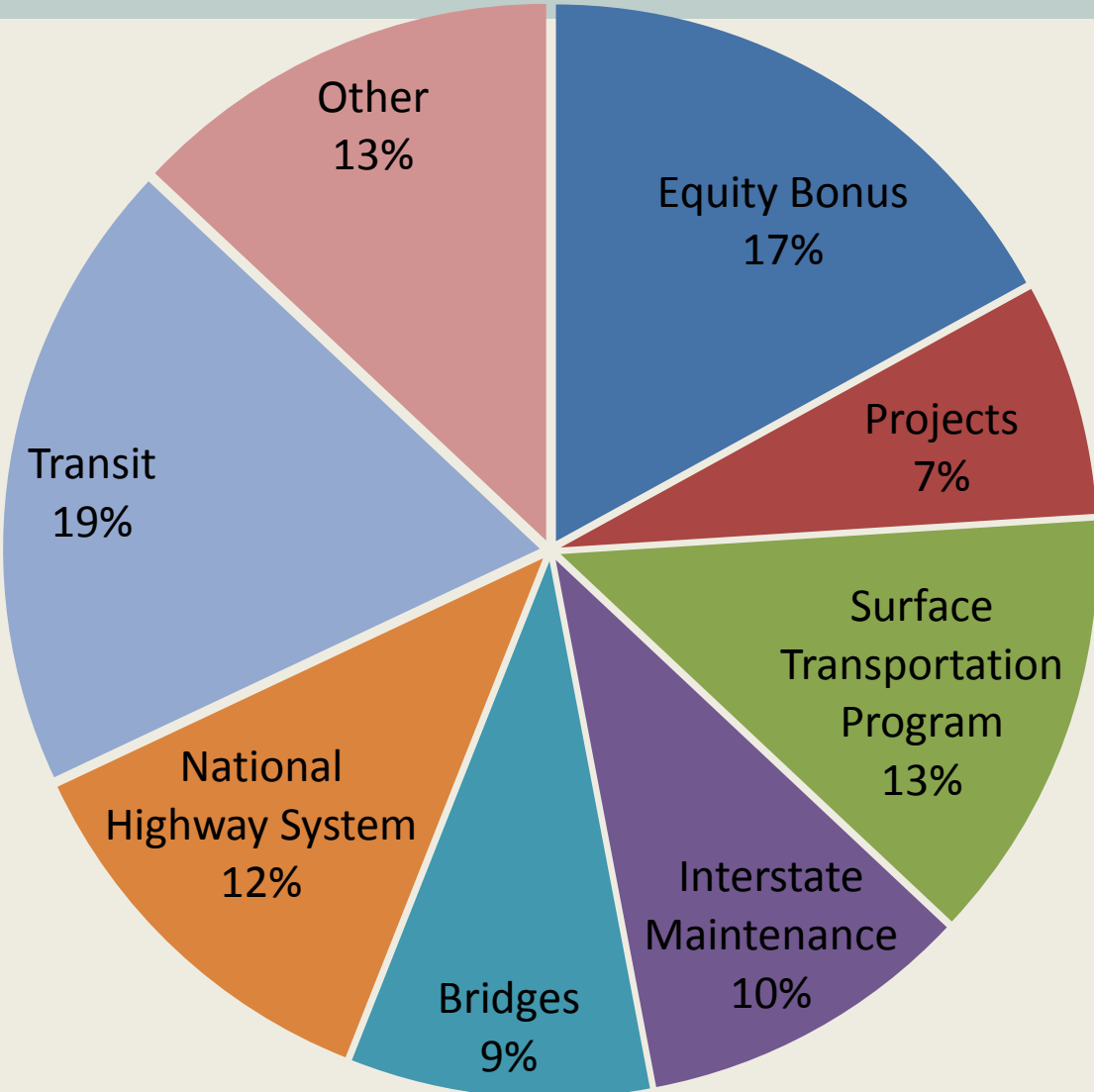
Jonah and the Clock



Current System

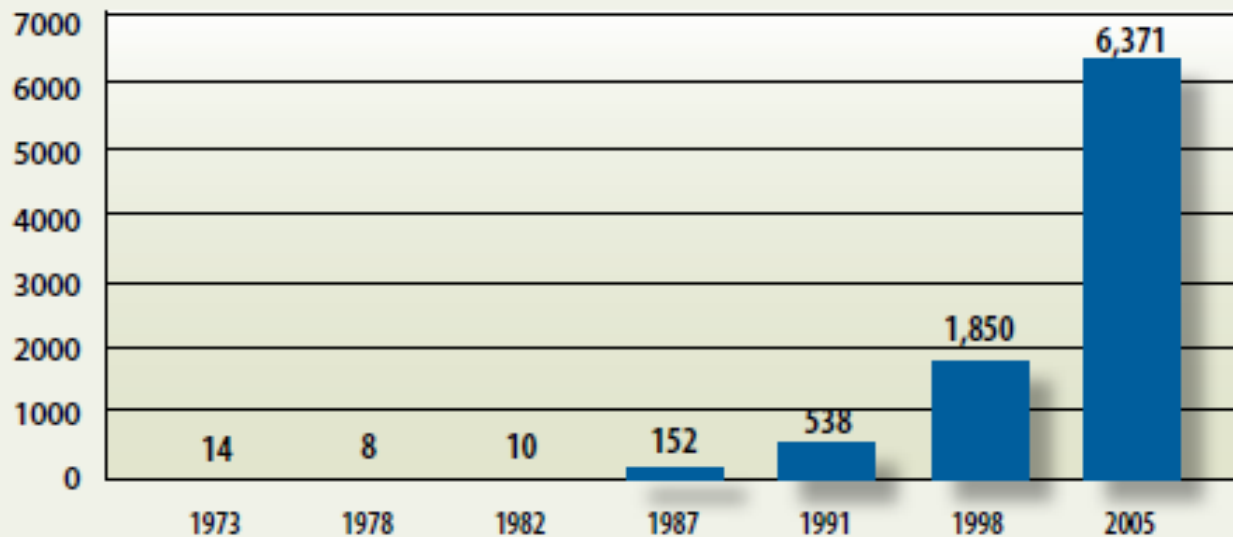


Spending Under Current Program



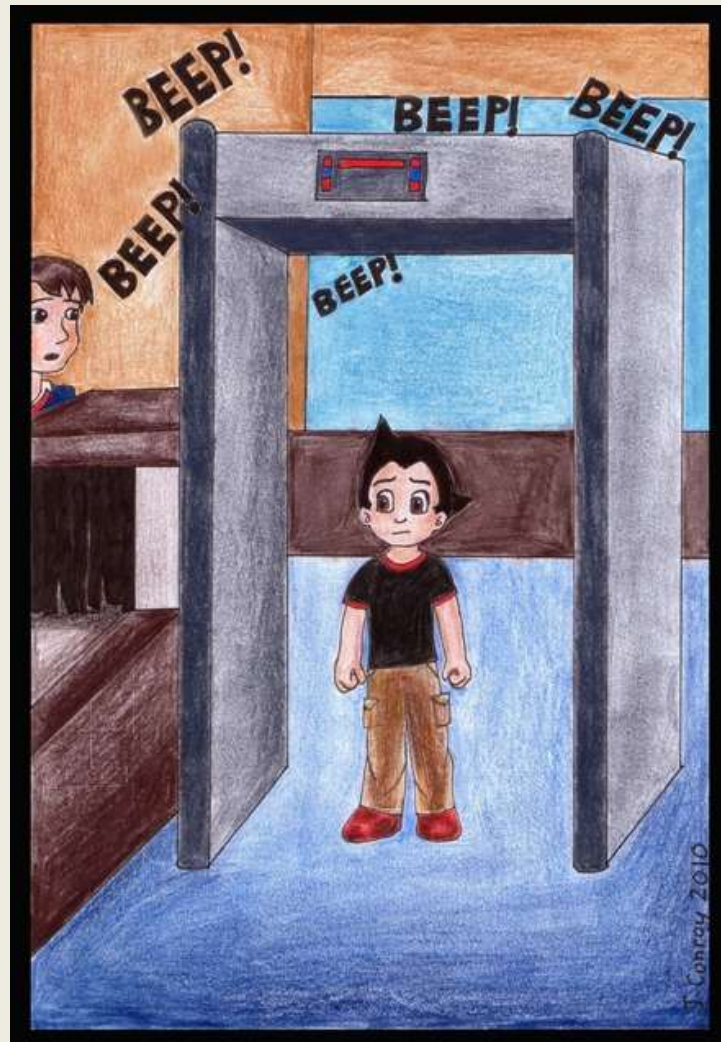
Growth in “Pork”

Figure 3: High-Priority Projects in Transportation Reauthorization Bills, 1973-Present



What is on the table as far as next steps?

Expectations have Diminished



Reasons for Inaction

Funding

Policy

Diminishing Revenues

No Tax Increases

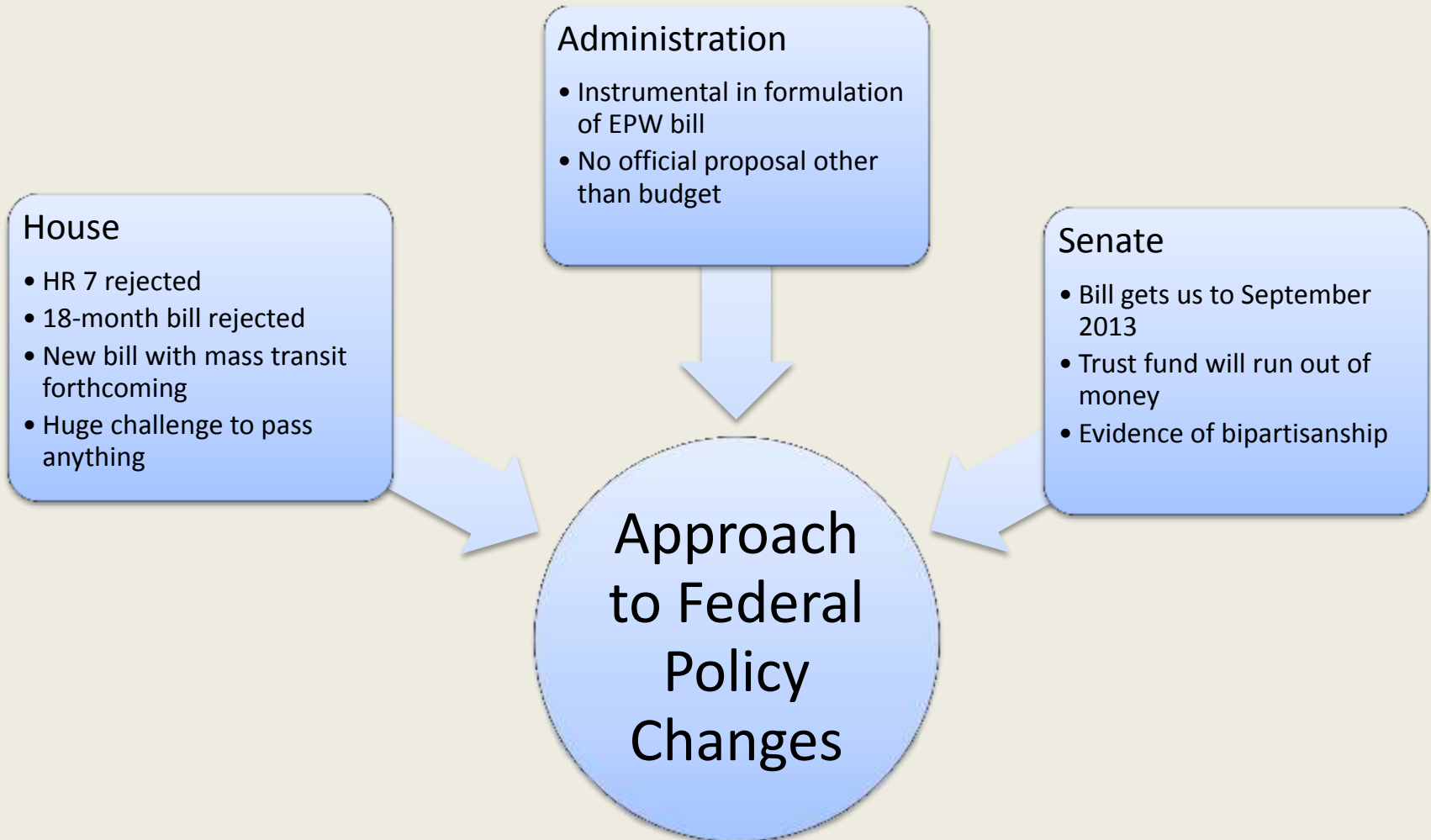
Need National Goals

Need Performance Measures

No Agreement on Federal Role



Proposals on the Table



What is likely to happen?

Columbia and the ADA



Federal Program Cannot Survive if Only About Money

- House is in an impossible position
- Senate bill only gets us to next year
- Program runs the risk of dying a slow death
- Optimism for greater bipartisanship next year

What can be done about it?

Max and the Packers



Think Clean Slate

- Worry less about the money and more about the policy change
- Refuse to engage in traditional fights (transit versus highways, metro versus rural, donor versus donee)
- Engage in the fight over national goals and performance measures

Proposed National Performance Measures

Economic Growth

Energy & Environmental Protection

Safety

Metropolitan Accessibility

- Access to jobs and labor
- Access to non-work activities

- Petroleum consumption

- Fatalities and injuries per capita

National Connectivity

- Network utility
- Corridor congestion

- CO₂ emissions

- Fatalities and injuries per Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

Immediate Asks

- Articulation of national goals as part of any new authorization bill
- Develop a plan to tie funding to performance over time
- At a minimum begin with research, data, and pilot programs

Jschank@enotrans.org

(202) 879-4711

www.enotrans.org