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Trends in Federal Transportation Policy



Joshua Schank
President and CEO
Eno Center for Transportation

Presentation Outline

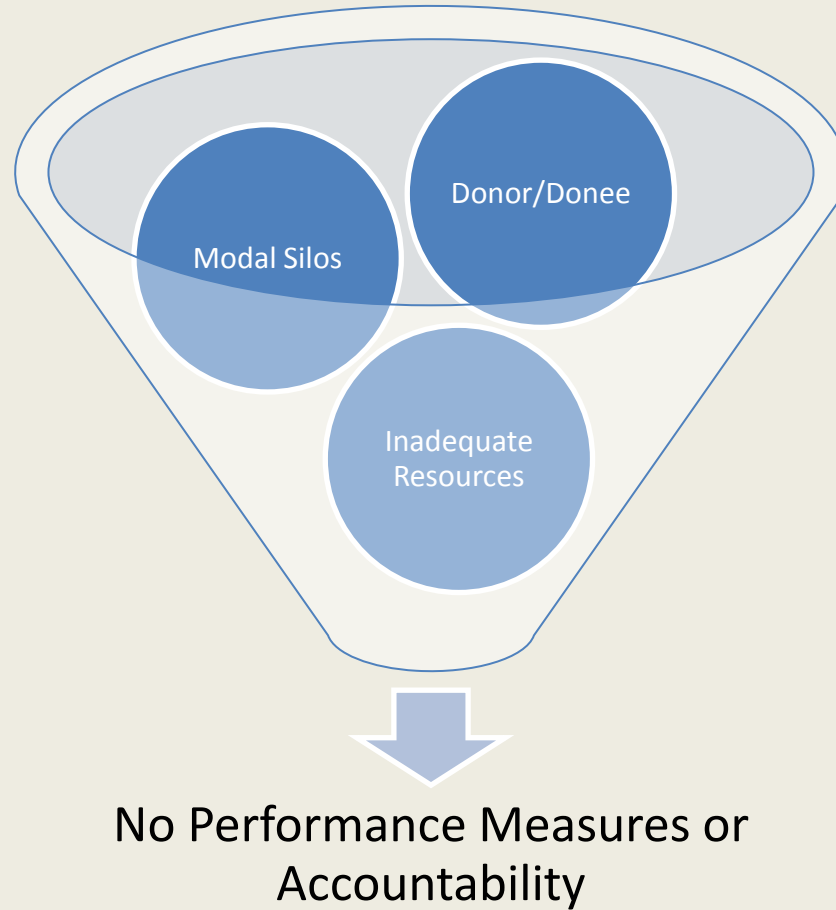
- How well does the existing policy work?
 - The need for reform
- What is on the table as far as next steps?
 - Current state of play
- What is likely to happen?
 - Congress is very predictable
- What can be done about it?
 - Transitioning to a performance based system

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

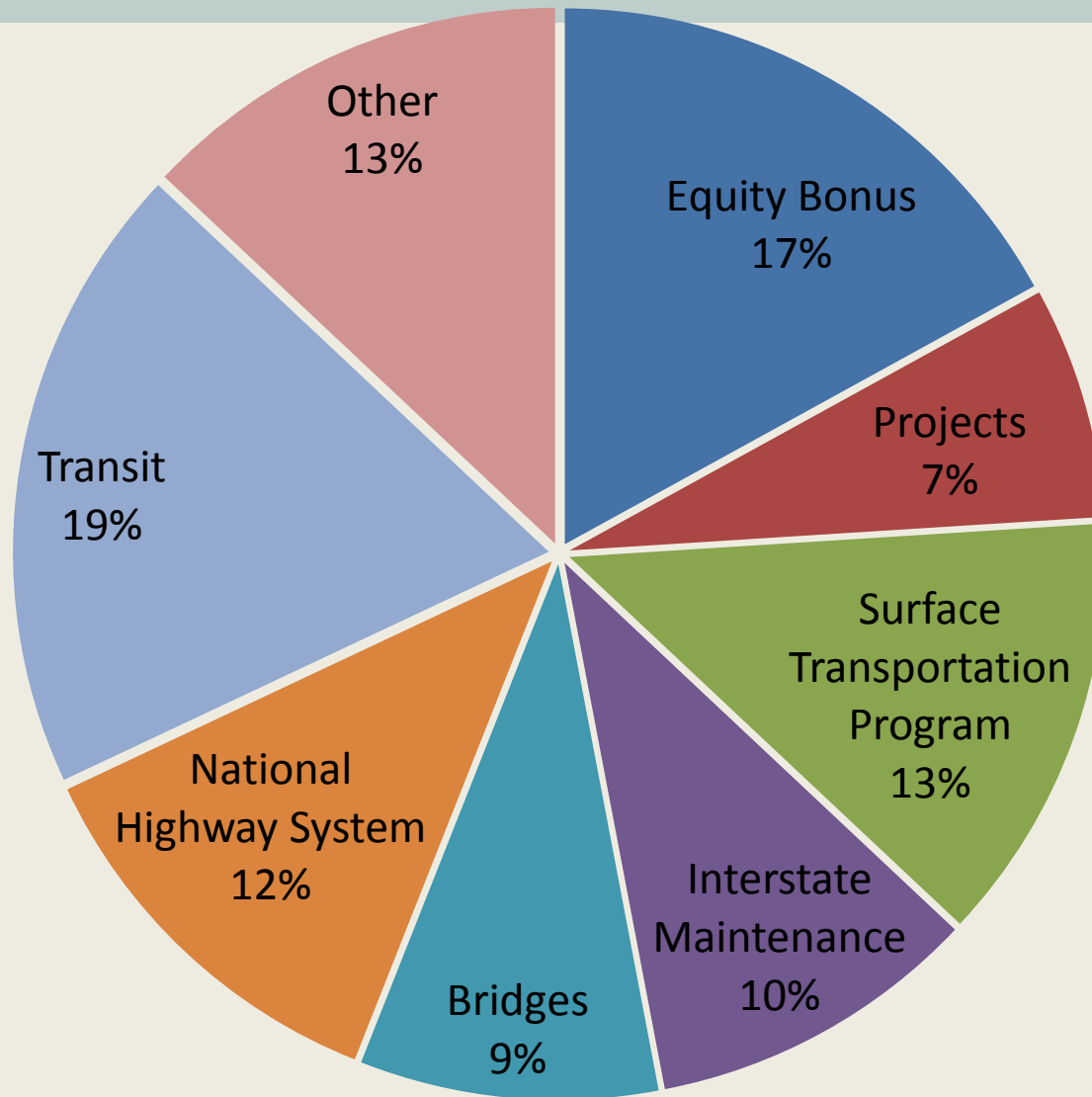
Jonah and the Clock



Current System

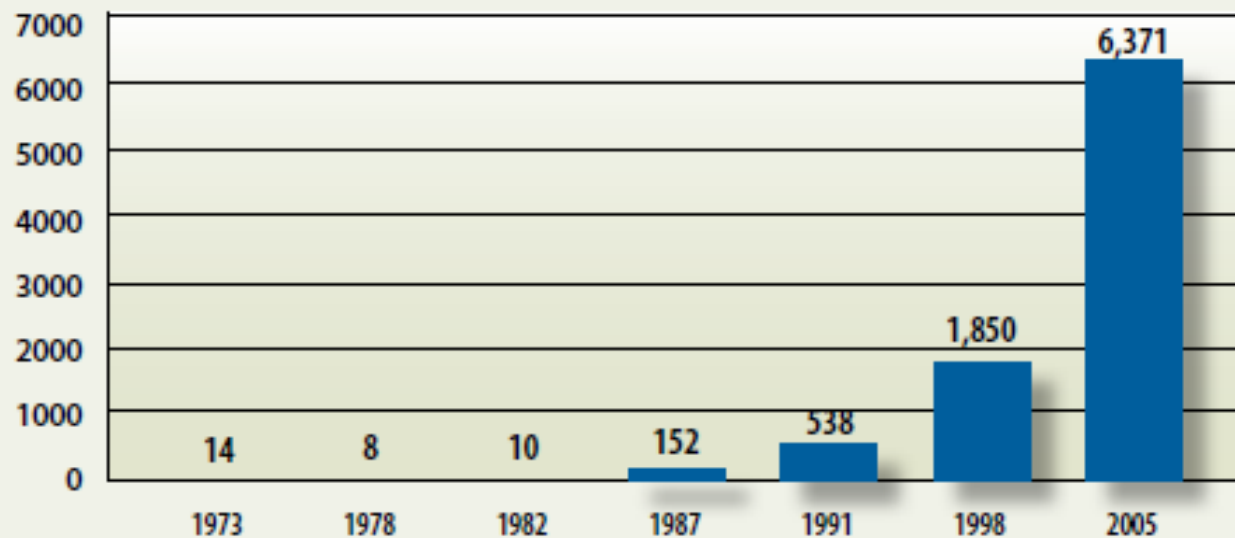


Spending Under Current Program



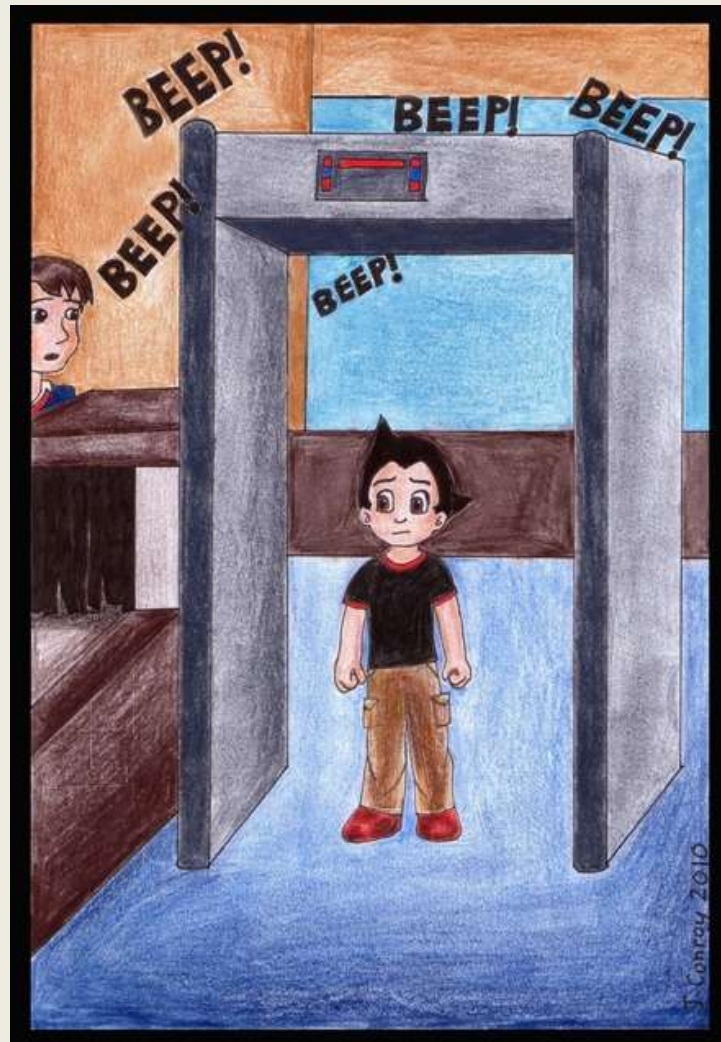
Growth in “Pork”

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

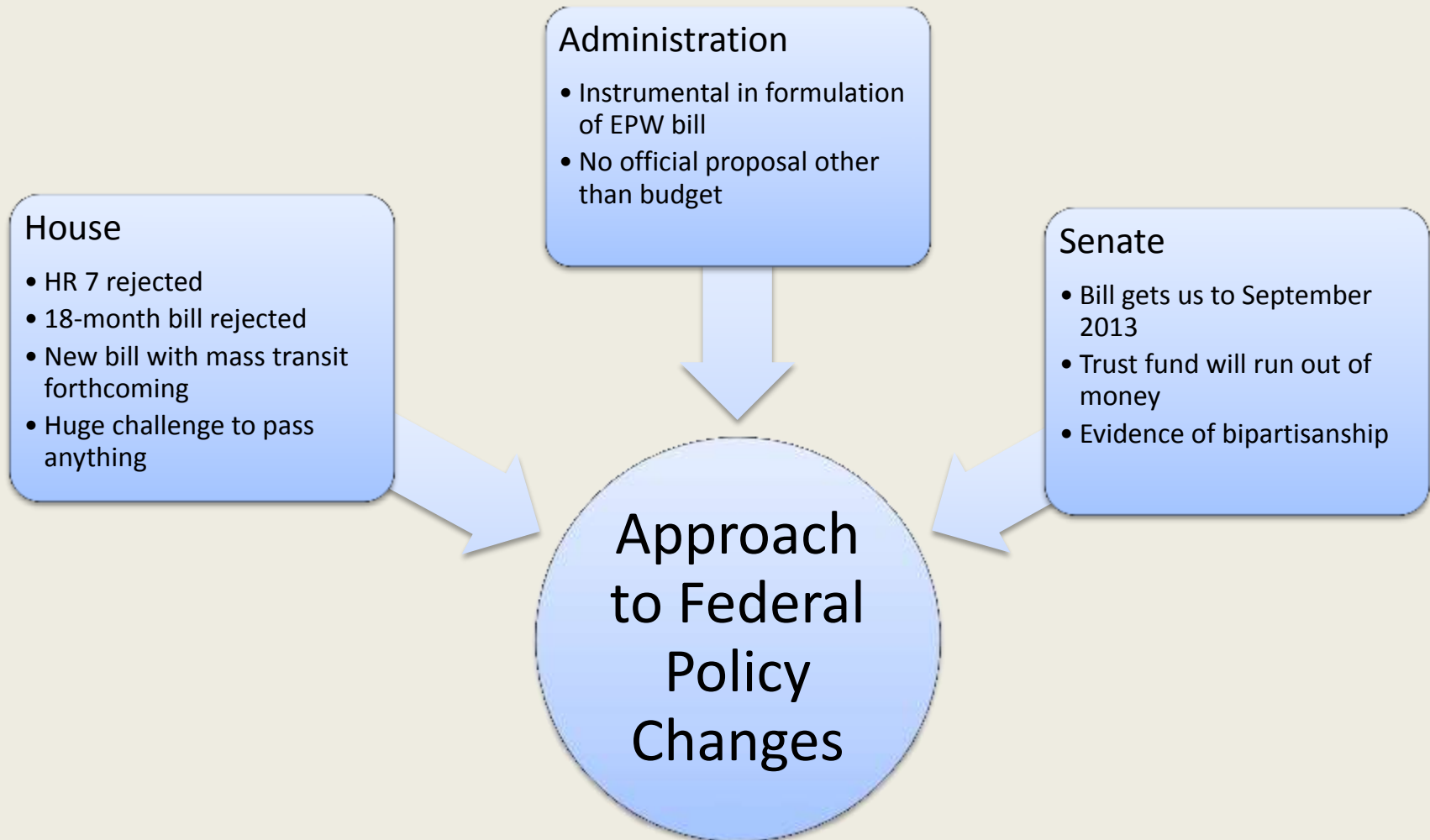
Need National
Goals

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