



# Say No to Crumbling Infrastructure

## Vote "No" against the Gas Tax Indexing Repeal

Massachusetts' roads and bridges are rapidly deteriorating and need significant repairs after years of neglect. Safety is the issue: experts say that far too many of our bridges are structurally deficient, with many more functionally obsolete. Not only safety is compromised, cutting critical transportation funds also impedes economic growth. A safe and reliable transportation system that enables us to move goods and services and commute to work is the backbone of our economy. Repealing the gas tax would be a big step in the wrong direction.

### BACKGROUND

The Transportation Finance Act of 2013 generates new funding to fix our roads, bridges, and public transportation. Through this law, the Commonwealth generates \$600 million in annual revenue that is constitutionally protected for transportation and deposited directly into the Commonwealth Transportation Fund which acts as a lockbox. However, this funding is in jeopardy because of a November 2014 ballot question that would repeal the law that links the gas tax to the consumer price index.

### WHAT'S THE SAFETY ISSUE?

- Massachusetts is already woefully behind in preserving infrastructure: we rank 31st in the country in the number of structurally deficient bridges.
- According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, **more than half** of all bridges in Massachusetts are structurally unsound. Of the 5,149 bridges in Massachusetts, 454 are considered structurally deficient and 1,520 are considered functionally obsolete.
- Our top ten most structurally deficient bridges carry more than 1.2 million cars each day.
- This repeal would cut more than \$1 billion dollars in transportation funds over the next decade that would be dedicated solely to repairing bridges, pot holes, subpar roads and public transit.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF IT IS REPEALED?

- The sponsors of the petition say that the Legislature should have to vote every year on whether to raise the tax. We went **22 years** without an increase, causing us to fall behind other states and our roads and bridges to deteriorate. That is why 15 other states index their gas tax with inflation.



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- We will lose the money and with it the opportunity to invest wisely in infrastructure, instead continuing the cycle of letting roads and bridges deteriorate.
- Massachusetts will likely be forced to rely once more on revenues from tolls, which disproportionately impacts commuters.
- Stifle our economy - transportation is critical to keeping Massachusetts competitive in the national and global economy. Reliable roads, bridges and transit are essential for shipping goods and services and commuting to jobs.
- Lose the opportunity to have transportation investment grow construction jobs. We have seen that big projects are a boon to the economy and Massachusetts could lose up to 15,000 construction jobs without this funding.

### CAN WE AFFORD IT?

- This is low cost and high benefit. It is specifically designated to transportation and can't be spent elsewhere. It costs approximately \$5 a year for the average driver, or about one cent per gallon. Without it, we don't have a reliable alternative to ensure safe roads and bridges. We must work against repeal.

### ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Committee for Safer Roads and Bridges is a diverse group of stakeholders that includes business, consumer, environmental and municipal interests that opposes the ballot question to repeal gas tax indexing. If you are interested in supporting the campaign please contact:

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