

Dear ATSSA Members:

The ATSSA *Flash* newsletter recently reported that the reauthorization of federal highway programs included in TEA-21 has been extended until May 31, 2005. While there is a slim chance that reauthorization could be completed during a “lame duck” session of Congress, recent Congressional history – and six extensions – would not indicate this is likely.

The reasons for this further delay are fairly complex, and include:

- Lack of agreement on overall funding levels between the Senate, House, and the White House.
- The inability to resolve the “donor – donee” issue without funding increases.
- Specific demands made by Senators John McCain (R.-Ariz) and Richard C. Shelby (R.-Ala.) that result in the inability of the Senate leadership to bring the bill out of conference.

This, of course, is disappointing. But, the battle is far from over. Now, more than ever, we must come together to speak as an association committed to ***“Advancing Roadway Safety.”***

ATSSA member efforts over the past four years have resulted in the inclusion of a major new “core” roadway safety program in both versions of the highway bill. ***These programs will provide billions of dollars in additional funding for roadway safety improvements provided by you – the members of ATSSA.*** Under ATSSA’s Roadway Safety Program, funds would be available to make improvements on our nation’s roadways that target:

- Run-Off-The-Road Crashes
- Intersections
- Pedestrians/Bicyclists
- Older Drivers
- Speed Management
- Work Zones
- Safety Management Systems
- Roadway Safety Research

When Congress reconvenes in 2005, ensuring that the highway bill remains a high legislative priority will remain the ATSSA top priority. You can help.

We are currently planning a number of events that will allow you to participate in this process. A Capitol Hill legislative fly-in is planned for May 2005, and during Traffic Expo in Phoenix, there will be a number of opportunities to involve you and your employees in communicating with Congress. We’ll do the legwork – all you have to do is make a phone call. We’ll tell you more as plans develop.

Find out more. ATSSA's Core Roadway Safety Program is located here
<http://www.atssa.com/gr/downloads/TEA-21RSPPublication1-30-02.pdf>

All the best to you.

Tom McSwain
President