



## Congress needs to act to fix highway program

Congress needs to act, and soon, to plug a gigantic hole in the federal highway aid program.

Without a new law, Kansas alone stands to lose \$120 million in federal aid next year, with disastrous consequences to the state's road program. That's almost one-third of the state's federal money, says Transportation Secretary Deb Miller.

Congress killed an amendment last month that would have plugged the gap with \$8 billion as a rider to a bill allocating money for the Federal Aviation Administration. Few other bills offer a chance to address a transportation issue, and time is running out.

The Federal Highway Trust fund is in trouble for several reasons, not the least of which is the high price of gasoline and diesel fuel. As prices soar, people stop driving as much, and the road fund suffers.

At the same time, the government has been pushing for more fuel efficiency, smaller vehicles and less driving. People are listening this time. The prices today really hurt.

And while the trust fund — like most state road funds — has many sources of income, all are hurting. Plus, the basis of all state and federal highway budgets is the fuel tax.

That's a problem, both because people are using less fuel, and because the tax is calculated by the gallon. If it was a percentage of the price of fuel, the fund might be full.

The problem will only get worse as smaller cars, higher fuel efficiency standards and the pressure to drive less further reduce the tax take. Then there's

the problem of "alternative fuel" vehicles.

People who use natural gas, propane or electricity to power their cars don't pay road taxes at all, unless you count the taxes on tires or new trucks. To keep on building highways, the country has to figure out how to tax these vehicles. There's no good solution.

State and federal officials have talked about a "miles driven" tax, which is technically possible. But paying your road tax in one or two yearly lumps would be painful as heck. The current at-the-pump plan is relatively easy to take, at least compared to the cost of fuel.

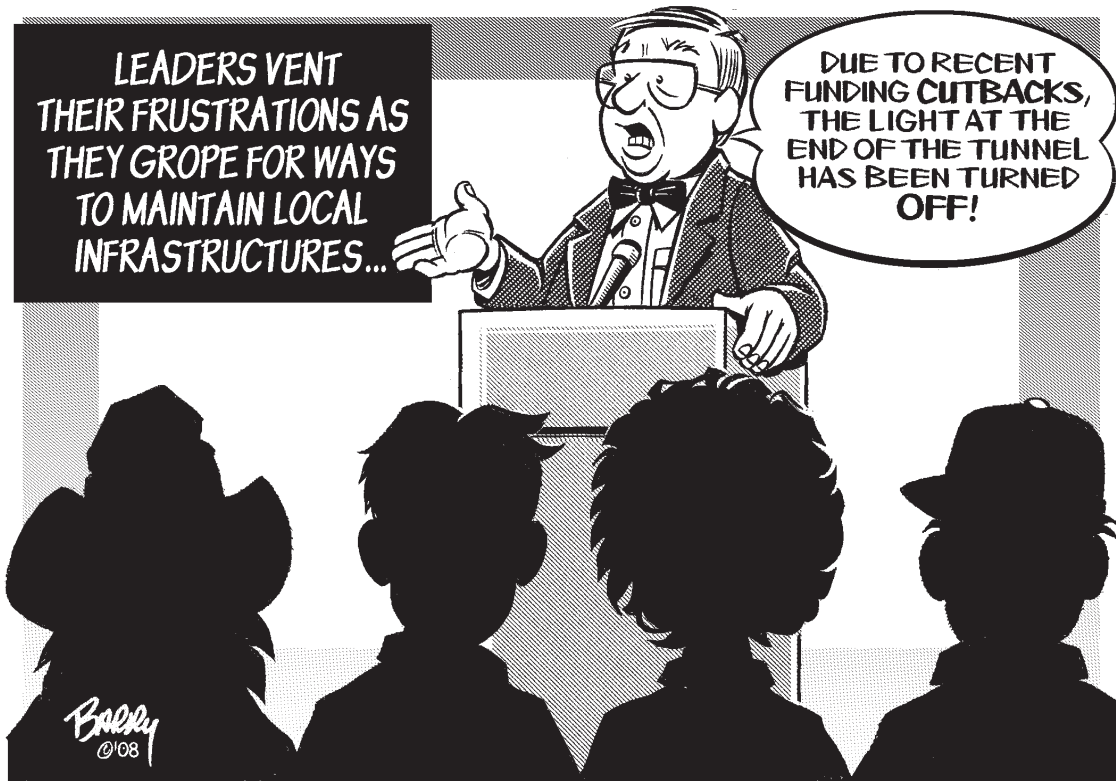
Congress needs to do something, and chances for a temporary fix are good, since every state would be affected by the shortfall expected next year. A permanent solution is more distant. History says in Washington, nothing will get done until after the deadline.

Meantime, though, action is needed on a patch job by October, and in Washington that's not a long time. Congress pretty much has to gear up for action right after the summer break.

Kansas officials haven't said yet which road projects might be affected by a shortage in the federal fund, and thankfully, most big jobs in this area are done, but the impact across the state could be huge — and long lasting.

The state already faces a crisis finding money to fill its highway fund, and a breakdown in Washington can only make matters worse.

— Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 75 years ago - 1933

A business transaction occurred this week whereby John Allen has disposed of his interest in the Conoco filling station at the northeast corner of Washington Avenue and Frances Street to Ted Schlittenhardt. The new owner took possession Monday and has placed August Zimelman in charge.

Farmer Schield is the new president of the St. Francis Commercial Club. C.D. Robinson is vice president and H.T. Sawhill is treasurer. A meeting was held following a luncheon at the Miller Cafe.

Quick action is coming for the completion of an all-weather road on U.S. Highway No. 36 from St. Francis to Wheeler.

Miss Lillie Gillespie is the new county superintendent of schools. Miss Gillespie has taught a number of terms of school in this county besides teaching in other states.

According to the Herndon Nonpareil a deal was closed last week whereby the Foster Lumber Company has purchased the lumber yard at Herndon from the Herndon Grain Association. The Dunn-Lesh Drug store, Washington Avenue and Scott Street, has had placed over the entrance to its store a fine new electric sign.

### 35 years ago - 1973

Kim Winston of St. Francis will be leaving for the Miss Kansas Pageant in Pratt the middle of July. She will

represent the Northwest Kansas area in the annual pageant.

The officers and directors of the Colby Savings and Loan Association invite everyone in the area to attend the grand opening of the St. Francis branch office on July 10.

"We've Come A Long Way," is the theme chosen for the 1973 Fair parade.

Melinda Hilt and Ricky Morris will be representing Kansas at the National 4-H Citizenship Short Course at Washington, D.C. They leave July 19.

Mr. Henry Persinger of Majestic Services Inc., of St. Francis has announced that they have added a new division, Majestic Auto Parts, to their services.

## Citizen fed up with 'J' parking

To the editor:

"J" Parking on Main Street! Went down to the store and almost got hit again by some Pin-Head that was too lazy to park and walk across the street where he wanted to go. Now they are also "J" backing out! City says it is not illegal, but I was issued a ticket for parking on the wrong side of the street in front of my home, and was told by the City Attorney (the one we still have) that there is an ordinance on the books that states "you cannot cross a lane of traffic to park" and I paid a fine!

This BULL about not having a line down the middle of Main Street makes it legal is just that — "BULL." I looked in the code book for "J" parking so I wouldn't miss the questions on my driver's license test about distances and

## Letters to the Editor

etc. Guess what - there weren't any rules, so St. Francis will just keep playing Musical Chairs with their parking until someone gets hurt or killed!

Remember the good old days when the police actually parked their car (note one car) down by the banks and WALKED up and down the business district and visited with the people hiring them? Now if you call the police you better ask for I.D. because the only time you see them is when they are driving around in their air-conditioned "CARS" and you don't recognize any of them!

You go to Wray, Goodland, Colby, or to any other town whose City Fathers know it is not OK and

you don't "J" park. It is Dangerous - Stupid- Teaching our Children BAD Driving Habits-and in my humble opinion, not LEGAL!

OK you say — you without sin throw the first stone — If anyone can say "Truthfully" that they have seen me do this I Will Give a very nice Donation to their Favorite Charity! Say run for the council - One Fiscal Conservative mixed with more Progressive Liberals would just create Stress for themself.

They can at least be ticketed for an illegal U-turn as soon as they back out to leave--No U-turn on Main Street.

Larry Wilson  
St. Francis

## Community is urged to attend

To the editor:

Next Monday night, July 28, beginning at 7 p.m., there will be a candidates' forum at the St. Francis High School auditorium. The public is invited. We want to encourage all that can, to attend and become better acquainted with the candidates you know, and learn as much as you can about the candidates you might not know as well. It is our information that most, if not all, of the candidates in contested races will participate.

As current and former members of the Cheyenne County Bar Association (some Democrats and some Republicans), we think that the upcoming primary to decide the Republican candidate for the position of District Judge for our

15th Judicial District is extremely important. Counties included in the district are Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan, Thomas, Rawlins and Sheridan.

Our current judge, Jack Burr, is retiring after serving over 25 years on the bench. Since the law was changed to allow us to vote for our district judges, no one has run against Judge Burr when the position came up for election. Looking forward, one might

assume that the judge elected in November could very well serve for a long time.

We have three individuals who are running for the position of District Judge. Each brings varying talents and backgrounds to the position and we would again encourage everyone to attend Monday's forum.

John Kite, James Milliken, Floyd Jensen, Michael Day and Kari Gilliland

**GOD SAYS**  
Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?  
who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that  
backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth  
evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up  
reproach against his neighbour.  
Psalms 15:1, 4

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## Casey's Comments

Rejoice at living in the "bread basket" of America!

Sometimes we forget how great we have it and how special our home is.

Last weekend we got to entertain a city fellow. My twin brother, Kelly, was here with his wife, Jenny, and grand-daughter, Ava. They live in Denver.

While we were driving along U.S. 36, my brother started throwing out questions about our agricultural area. I fielded them as well as I could, being a transplant myself. But his queries were the same that I made when coming here.

Although the wheat had been harvested already, we were able to see bountiful fields of corn, milo, soy beans and sunflowers.

He was surprised to know how much of the crops were "dry land," although we drove by several pivots, watering their thirsty plants in circular motions.

The bottom line is the average

person from the big city rarely stops to think about how the food they need makes it from the field to their local store. For all they know, it could just as easily come from a smoke belching, concrete factory in town as a rich fertile field in Kansas. I can attest since that used to be me.



This isn't a knock on city folk. They just don't stop to think about how much they need the "bread basket."

And what a blessing it is to feed so many.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Lyle Williams, Emporia; Bob Brandon, Overland Park; Kenneth Deardoff, Peoria, Ariz.; Neil McCumber, St. Francis; Fred Waters, McDonald; Keith Reichert, Boise, Idaho, C.R. Zimelman, Boulder, Colo.; Norman Dorsch, Bird City; Francis O'Leary, St. Francis; Tish Havel, St. Francis; Jim and Carolyn Pettit, Springfield, Mo.; Bryan Ford, St. Francis; Cheyenne County Extension Office, St. Francis; Florence Peacock, St. Francis; James Milliken, St. Francis; Alan

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