

America's Failing Infrastructure

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Global Economy](#)

By Scarlett Jackson

America's Failing Infrastructure BUILDING

America's greatest generation built the world's greatest infrastructure network.

ROADS

1950: Eisenhower Interstate Highway System. Over 47,000 miles of interstate today. Covers 4 million miles of local roads, enough to circle the Earth 100 times.

RAILS

1862's first intercontinental railroad construction. Today: 130,000 miles of passenger tracks. The busiest and largest rail system in the world.

BRIDGES

1907: The Eads Bridge in St. Louis is the longest cantilevered bridge in America. Today: 661,388 bridges.

TUNNELS

1976: The Eisenhower Tunnel spans 1.7 miles through mountain west of Denver. At 11,000+ feet it is the highest point of the Interstate Highway System.

PORTS

1825: The Canal connects the great lakes to the Atlantic through NYC. 1917: Panama Canal finished, cutting off 8,000 miles from the NY to LA sea route.

AIRPORTS

1943: College Park Airport in Maryland is the oldest continuously operating airport in the world founded by Walter Willard. Today: Over 600 million passengers and 19.5 billion pounds of freight goods in 2012.

1991: 100% of all U.S. airline passengers are served by commercial airports. Today: 340 commercial airports with 50,000-170 million in gates, or 11% of total GDP.

Over Time the US Failed to Adapt

By 2010, America wasn't even in the top 10 for infrastructure competitiveness.

- Hong Kong
- Germany
- Singapore
- France
- Japan
- Switzerland
- Netherlands
- United Kingdom
- Canada
- Sweden

Personal & National Costs are High

Even with higher household earnings, we spend more money on transportation than other developed nations.

AMERICA	17.6%	That's \$8,810 yearly per family!
CANADA	14%	
EUROPE	13%	
JAPAN	12.5%	

1% of household earnings spent on transportation. With \$3 billion worth, wasted in traffic jams in 2010 in the form of 2.3 billion gallons of gas.

Highways

131,723 miles of roads have been built just from 1988 to today! (doesn't count the 100,000 miles of roads that were there before)

Without a plan to take care of existing roads...

BRIDGES

210 million daily trips are taken across deficient bridges in our 102 largest cities.

U.S. Bridges are functionally obsolete, or structurally deficient... including 77% of Washington D.C.'s bridges.

PORTS

The U.S. has fallen to 22nd for quality of port infrastructure.

Shanghai	28.1M
L.A.	6,748
Long Beach	5,087
N.Y. / New Jersey	4,561
Savannah	2,356
Oakland	2,061
Houston	1,797
Norfolk	1,754

U.S. Ports combined ship less than Shanghai.

AIRPORTS

High inefficiency = Waste. The U.S. is suffering the same ground-based, radio system introduced in the 1950's.

10% of all U.S. flights pass through N.Y. congested airports at 10-20 hour airports.

Without a Plan It's Only Going to Get Worse

Projected increase in travel and freight:

- By 2020 Port volume will double.
- By 2030 Car passenger miles will increase 80%.
- By 2025 Train freight will increase 80%.

Our personal safety, financial stability, and lifestyle depends on the health of our infrastructure.

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America's Failing Infrastructure

America's greatest generation built the world's greatest infrastructure network.

Building...

Roads

1950's: Eisenhower Interstate Highway System[6]

Over 47,000 miles of interstates

Today: Close to 4 million miles of total roads

Enough to circle the Earth 160 times

Rails

1860's: First intercontinental railroads constructed

Today: 150,000 miles of mainline track

The busiest and largest rail system in the world

Bridges

1950's: Louisiana's Lake Pontchartrain Bridge (24 miles) is the longest bridge in America completed.[1]

Today: 607,380 bridges

Tunnels

1979: the Eisenhower tunnel spans 1.7 miles through mountains west of Denver. At 11,000+ feet it is the highest point of the Interstate Highway System.[2]

Canals

1825: Erie Canal connects the great lakes to the Atlantic through NYC.[3]

1914: Panama Canal finished, cutting off 8,000 miles from the the NY to LA sea route.

Ports

April 6th 1776: defying British rule, all American colony ports are opened to international trade.[4]

Today: 360 commercial ports in the U.S. ship \$1.73 trillion in goods, or 11% of total GDP [5]

Airports

1909: College Park Airport in Maryland is the oldest continually operating airport in the world.

Founded by Wilbur Wright. [8]

Today: Over 640 million passengers and 19.6 billion pounds of shipped goods in 2013.[7]

But over time it's failed to adapt.

BY 2010, America wasn't even in the top ten for infrastructure competitiveness:

- 1.) Hong Kong
- 2.) Germany
- 3.) United Arab Emirates
- 4.) France
- 5.) Singapore
- 6.) Switzerland
- 7.) Netherlands
- 8.) United Kingdom x
- 9.) Canada
- 10.) Sweden

...

15.) United States

Which costs a lot, personally, and nationally.

Personally: Even with higher household earnings, we spend more money on transportation than other developed nations.

[% of household earnings spent on transportation]

America: 17.6%

Canada: 14%

EU: 13%

Japan: 12.5%

That's \$8,810 yearly per family![\$50,054 x .176]

With 4.8 billion hours wasted in traffic jams in 2008.[9]

TO the tune of 3.9 billion gallons of gas.

Nationally: Freight bottlenecks and congestion cost about \$200 billion[9]

Or 1.6% of the U.S. GDP in losses each year.

Chicago is the nations largest railroad center.

Due to congestion, it currently takes a freight train longer to travel through Chicago's city limits than it takes for a train to travel from Chicago to L.A.

We're not doing enough to remedy the solution

[% gdp spent on investment in new infrastructure]

2.4% Australia[9]

1.66% Sweden

1.53% France

1.48% Poland

1.29% Spain

1.15% UK

1.03% Belgium

.8% Germany

.6% America

[% gdp spent on maintenance of infrastructure]

Maintenance Costs:

9% China

4% Canada

1.7% U.S.

Even though EVERY CENT of our GDP relies on infrastructure.

Rails-

15,000 miles of high speed rails worldwide[9]

Close to 0 of which are in the U.S.

=

less efficient highway and plane passenger travel

High Speed vs. Old-Fashioned
New York–Chicago
711miles/42 MPH/17 Hours

Beijing-Shanghai
819 miles/168 Mph/5 hours
America's passenger trains are slower than they were 50 years ago.

Highways–
131,723 miles of roads built just from 1988 to today!
(Enough to circle the Earth 5 times)

...Without a plan to take care of existing roads...

210 million daily trips are taken across deficient bridges in our 102 largest cities.[10]
1/4 American Bridges are functionally obsolete, or structurally deficient.
Including 77% of Washington D.C.'s bridges falling into these categories.

Ports–
The U.S. has fallen to 22nd for quality of port infrastructure
And is losing traffic abroad.

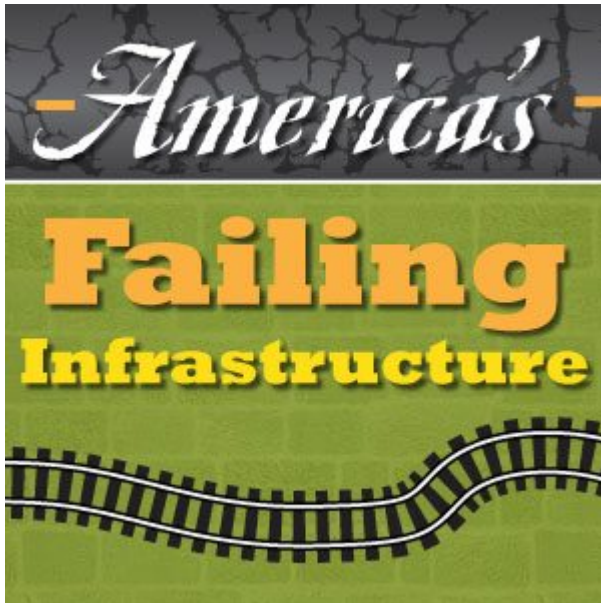
Airports–
High inefficiency=waste

- 1.) Are still using the same ground-based, radar system developed in the 1950's.[9]
- 2.)1/3 of all U.S. flights pass through NY, magnifying any delays at NY's 3 main airports across the country.[9]

Without a plan it's only going to get worse.
Projected increase in travel and freight:[9]

2020:Port volume will double
2030: Car passenger miles to increase 80%
2035: Train freight to increase by 88%

Our personal safety, financial stability, and lifestyle depends on the health of our infrastructure.



Citations:

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