

The Renzi Report

VOL. 3 ISSUE 6

AUGUST 2005

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

Dear Fellow Arizonan:

Transportation is an issue that affects each and every one of us. Safe, well maintained roads and travel routes are essential for taking our children to school, allowing us to get to our jobs and providing important access for public safety officers and emergency first responders. Before Congress recessed for August, it passed a comprehensive transportation bill which was also approved by the President. This bill's goal was to update and improve America's transportation infrastructure. I am pleased to report that the bill contained funds for several vital transportation projects in Arizona's First District, including money to pave roads, improve mass transportation, replace bridges, and widen a section of Interstate 60.

As always, feel free to tell your family members, friends and neighbors about the Renzi Report. You can sign up to receive this email and find additional information about developments in Congress at my website. Just click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/renzi>.

If you have any questions or comments about this e-newsletter or anything else, please e-mail me at rick.renzi@mail.house.gov and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. I hope you find this Renzi Report informative. Thank you and may God Bless America.



Congressman Rick Renzi

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Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) is shown here with first responders from the Show Low – White Mountains Area. Congressman Renzi secured \$2 million to replace the Lone Pine Dam Bridge in Navajo County and \$1 million to improve Scott Ranch Road and allow first responders better access to regional medical facilities.

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In Case You Missed It...

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Arizona Transportation Update Page 1

Renzi Secures \$3 Million for Rio de Flag

Congressman Renzi said these funds will provide an important public improvement for roads and bridges in Flagstaff. The improvements will allow for new recreation trails used by both people and bicycles. Renzi said the federal money was vital because it will allow Flagstaff to protect itself from the threat of a 100 or 500 year flood.

Renzi Secures Almost \$2 Million for Flagstaff and Sedona

Congressman Renzi secured almost \$2 million for the Coconino County Bus System to purchase new buses for Flagstaff and Sedona. The funds will help reduce traffic congestion in both Flagstaff and Sedona, and will provide reliable public transportation for residents and visitors alike. The funds will provide an important boost to the Coconino County Bus System and allow it to better serve residents who rely on public transportation. Congressman Renzi said Flagstaff transportation will benefit by improving the paratransit services for the community and integrating GPS technologies into operations management, efficiency improvements and real time information for customers. This federal funding will also play an essential role in improving transportation in Sedona by reducing traffic congestion and providing commuter service between residential areas and employment centers.

Renzi Secures \$2 Million for Lone Pine Dam Bridge in Navajo County

Congressman Renzi announced that \$2 million secured for the Lone Pine Dam Bridge will go towards the replacement of the structure. The new bridge is vital to Navajo County and connects several communities in the area.

Congressman Renzi said that the original Lone Pine Dam Bridge is an important transportation link for Navajo County, but that there is an urgent need to replace this bridge with a newer and safer alternative. These funds represent an important step in the right direction towards building a new Lone Pine Dam Bridge.

This project has been the number one priority for Navajo County for the past two years, and is very important to the safety and security of the Navajo County residents.

Renzi Secures \$1 Million for Scott Ranch Road

Congressman Renzi said the \$1 million secured for Scott Ranch Road in Navajo County would connect White Mountain Road (SR 260) and Penrod Road (SR 77). The new road will help provide needed access to the Navapache Regional Medical Center.

Improved access to the Navapache Regional Medical Center is vital to the White Mountains. These funds will help serve the growing needs of Navajo County, and will play an important role in improving the quality of life for the residents of the White Mountains.

Arizona Transportation Update Page 2

Renzi Secures Almost \$3 Million for Tonto Creek Bridge Project

Congressman Renzi said that almost \$3 million in new federal funds will be available for the Tonto Creek Bridge project. Currently, more than 900 people live on the east side of Tonto Creek. Three roads are available to cross Tonto Creek, but traveling to and from the area has been complicated by repeated closures. Currently, two of the roads are open, but traveling by car is still very difficult.

Renzi said that this was great news for the Rim Country and Tonto Basin because these funds will allow the project to move forward. This new bridge is vital to the community, and will provide a big boost in safety to families who will not have to worry about road closures or unsafe conditions, not to mention a quicker journey into town for school, work and groceries.

The Tonto Creek Bridge funds will be managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps will manage the planning phase which will include public meetings on design and location, and will focus on engineering, mapping, surveys and structural analysis.

Renzi said that this money had been a major priority for the region for a number of years and was pleased to see funds secured for this important project.

Renzi Secures \$3 Million for Gonzales Pass Project

The \$3 million secured by Congressman Renzi to widen US 60 to Gonzales Pass will be a major improvement to the traffic and safety of the roadway. Gonzales Pass is a challenging section of interstate that results in a high percentage of accidents due to the heavy traffic use.

Renzi was committed to securing the funds because US 60 is the gateway to Eastern Arizona and this project will reduce the potential for accidents as more and more travelers use this vital transportation artery. The widening of US 60 to Gonzales Pass will also help with the added congestion and traffic back-ups that occur on weekends.

Renzi Secures Funds for New 8th Avenue Bridge in Safford

Congressman Renzi joined with Senator Jon Kyl to secure a total of \$7 million for a new bridge for Graham County. The 8th Avenue Bridge in Safford serves as a major economic artery for the county, connecting it with the regional landfill, and the Safford Regional Airport as well as other industrial and residential developments. The current bridge is in need of replacement because it does not meet safety standards, and is expected to experience even more traffic with new commercial projects planned for the future. This new bridge will be a big boost to Safford's economic development, especially with the increased mining, farming and other commercial activity expected in the future. The bridge will give the community room to grow and expand by providing a safe and sturdy bridge to the landfill, airport and other economic developments.

FAST FACTS:

34 States Experienced Jobs Gains In July 2005; Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, And Oregon Had The Highest Percentage Gains, With A 0.6% Increase.

(Bureau Of Labor Statistics, Press Release, 8/19/05)

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Arizona Transportation Update Page 3

Renzi Secures \$250,000 for Copper Ore Cart Trail to Provide for Education Project on Copper History

Congressman Renzi secured \$250,000 for the Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition Ore Cart Trail Project to help boost tourism for the San Manuel area.

Renzi said the Ore Cart Trail Project will not only provide an economic tourism boost, it will help educate visitors and residents alike on the rich copper mining history of the area. The project is expected to have a huge impact on the region. The Copper Corridor Ore Cart Trail will promote Pinal County's most unique resources – its scenery and its history. The project will address work force, community and economic development issues by identifying and promoting the Copper Corridor as a scenic alternate route for tourists between Tucson and Phoenix, along State Highways 177 and 77. The Ore Cart Trail will also increase interest in the rich history surrounding the towns, and the scenic treasures of our natural surroundings, as well as grow and promote the area making it a special point of interest to see and experience.

Renzi Secures \$1 Million for Pinal Ave. – Main St. Bypass

Congressman Renzi secured \$1 million to construct a Main Street commercial traffic bypass in Casa Grande. This commercial bypass for Casa Grande will go a long way to help ease traffic congestion for the area and will provide an important improvement for regional transportation for Main Street and Pinal Avenue.

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Native American Transportation Update

Renzi Secures More than \$3 Million for Pine Springs Road

Congressman Renzi said the \$3.5 million secured to pave 12 miles of the Pine Springs Road is essential to providing a safer transportation alternative for the students of Pine Springs. The roadway is the only bus route into or out of the Pine Springs community and the poor condition of the roadway represents a threat to the safety and education of the town's residents. Currently poor sight distances, sharp curves and occasional flooding represent major obstacles to members of the Pine Springs community who rely on this roadway. These funds will provide better transportation services to the residents of the area.

Residents of Pine Springs have said that when it rains or snows, traveling on the road becomes extremely challenging. Because of the added difficulty in getting to the school, drop out rates are much higher than they should be.

Often the school bus would leave at 4:30am and the first student pick up was at 5:45am. The students were forced to wait in the rain and the snow. When roads are really bad, buses could not go faster than 5 miles per hour and it would literally take hours to cover 11 miles.

Renzi Secures \$1 Million for Navajo Route 20

Congressman Renzi also secured \$1 Million to pave the 28 miles of Navajo Route 20 between the communities of Le Chee, Coppermine and The Gap. The unpaved portions of Navajo Route 20 often become dangerous during extreme weather.

Navajo Route 20 has provided historical regional access to the communities of northern Arizona, and continues to be a primary school bus route for the area and serves four Navajo chapters, and several school districts. It also serves as an emergency transportation route for public safety officials, and will provide access to a new health care center.

Residents of the area said the funds will make a huge difference because it is such a high traffic road in a very isolated community. Because of the road's poor condition, it is extremely difficult not only for school busses, but for emergency service vehicles as well. These road improvements are very important and will be a big benefit for the community.

Renzi Secures \$480,000 for Many Farms Road Project

Congressman Renzi said the \$480,000 secured for the Many Farms Road projects would help the community in its overall goal to revitalize the area, especially the Many Farms Lake. The road improvements are needed because when the road becomes impassable, it affects students, seniors and emergency services, creating a dangerous situation for the residents of the community.

FAST FACTS:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Said The FY 2005 Deficit Will Be \$331 Billion, \$34 Billion Less Than Predicted In March And \$2 Billion Less Than The White House Estimate.
(Nell Henderson, "Deficit Forecast Lowered For 2005," *The Washington Post*, 8/16/05)

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In Case You Missed It...

Nearly \$3 million allocated for Tonto Creek Bridge

http://www.paysonroundup.com/section/frontpage_lead/story/19929

County sees bridge as new revenue source

<http://www.paysonroundup.com/section/localnews/story/20012>

U.S. House Allots \$2 Million For Lone Pine Dam Bridge Project

<http://www.azjournal.com/pages/news/Aug05/080305lonepinebridge.html>

Renzi says two systems at YPG are priorities

<http://sun.yumasun.com/google/ysarchive15681.html>

America's private property rights are under attack

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14939054&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=222076&rfi=6

Renzi: BIA to blame for lack of home ownership

<http://www.gallupindependent.com/2005/july/072605renzi.html>

Renzi secures \$1 million for Scott Ranch Road

http://www.wmicentra.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15021799&BRD=2264&PAG=461&dept_id=505965&rfi=8

Renzi secures \$2 million for Lone Pine Dam Bridge

http://www.wmicentra.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14959524&BRD=2264&PAG=461&dept_id=505965&rfi=8

Renzi pushes for 'super port'

<http://sun.yumasun.com/google/ysarchive15654.html>

FAST FACTS:

The U.S. Department of Labor showed that 207,000 jobs were created in July. The positive employment report marks the 26th consecutive month of sustained job creation. The Labor Department also revised upward job growth estimates for May and June by an additional 42,000 new jobs, meaning that since May 2003 nearly 4 million jobs have been added to the U.S. economy.

((Bureau Of Labor Statistics, Press Release, 8/05/05))

