

NASHTU DC Notes:

Tuesday

NASHTU Past 12 Month Accomplishments

- HR 2104 Co-sponsors
- Worked to include HR 2104 into next TEA
- Obama is on board with consultant reform

Guest Speaker, Former CA. Lt. Gov. John Garamendi cites:

- Currently there is not enough money to repair our infrastructure
- CA. increased their gas tax by 8 cents, passing w/ a 2/3 public opinion
- The STA, Surface Transportation Act, is stalled
- We can't borrow money
- ARA and STA *are* being pushed
- Wants to add manufacturers to lobbyist list, start building trains, buses in US only
- Let's get our oil subsidiaries back
- Let's add \$5.00 to the cost of a barrel of oil

Guest Speaker Kathy Dedrick, out of Barbera Boxers' Office cites:

- Recently passed HIRE Act, (all money talk and kinda lost me. . .)

Guest Speaker Jim Kolb cites:

- Chairman Oberstars' 775 page bill is bi-partisan
- STA is in the House of Reps.
- This bill reforms how we do Highway work and creates an Office of Public Benefit

Guest Speaker Dan Zelator, out of CN. C-Women D'Larios' office cites:

- Proposal for a National Bank, funded by pensions, is on the table

Guest Speaker John Porcari, Deputy Secretary, USDOT cites:

- With Senator LaHood moves for High speed Rail w/100% of rail built in USA
- In Ohio, Cincy, Cleveland, Dayton, are high Speed Rail candidates
- Looking to re-organize safety, and looks for economically sound maintenance
- Funding options for transportation remain loans, grants or loan guarantees, 1st year goal is 4 Billion dollars
- His committee has no pull on outsourcing
- Force account problem exists
- No cost-plus contracts
- OMB, decrease consultants by 75%
- OMB claims inherently government work should be done by public workers
- OMB claims if consultants are used you must perform a cost benefit analysis
- OMB definitions of inherently government includes construction inspection

Guest Speaker Tim Walz, MN. D-Representative cites:

- Study of Rural Transportation Issues is being released today
- 6% of ARA funds went to transportation and yielded 40% of the jobs

NASHTU UPDATE

- "It makes a difference as to who is in the White House"
- "Porcari is a great improvement over La Hood"
- NASHTU members in CA. met w/ a number of CA. congressman instead of fling to Washington DC so a local lobby day was held
- NASHTU is preparing a draft response to OMB

ONE on ONES

- NASHTU MN. Met w/Oberstar and he has added language to Filner Bill citing that CI must also include Design/Build
- NASHTU NY. met w/ Porcari & King Gee, FHWA, and requested that timelines be increased and that state forces only perform CI

Guest Speaker Geraldine Madrid-Davis

STATE PENSION THREATS AND DEFENSE

- Attacks on COLA's and health benefits continue, COLA compounding is substantial
- Newspapers continue w/" If it bleeds it reads" mentality
- Pension pluses include, reduction of elderly poverty, economic ease on social services which saves states money, strong employee retainage rate for employers

Wednesday

Guest Speaker, Dr. Judy Chu, Rep. D-CA. cites:

- Will write a letter to OMD promoting NASTHU's issues
- 64 Billion dollars is approved for infrastructure relief
- Every 1 Billion invested creates jobs
- We need to be efficient w/our dollars, lauds Pres. Obamas cessation of NO-Bid.
- As HR-2104 attests there is strong house support for same and hopes for Senate approval

PEF's NASHTU Delegates, Paul Gendron, Jim Esposito, and Andrew Puleo lobbied congressman representing Staten Island, and portions of Long Island, Manhatten, Brooklyn and upstate New York to support the Filner bill. We found all the congressman accommodating in listening to our case and cite that Rep. Bishop, L.I., to be most opposed as his position was fear that we were taking jobs from the private sector, vs. providing tax value per dollar.

Thursday

NASHTU ConnDOT Stephen Livingston comments:

- Current gubernatorial candidate, Frmr. Lt. Gov. is a felon
- 401k in lieu of Pension fund is being pushed by local rag, "Hartford Courant"
- Conn. Wants to establish an energy purchasing entity to offer affordable electricity
- Conn. Has done buy-outs and wants to do another

NASHTU Michigan Amy Lipset comments:

- MI. has been in a recession since 2001
- Furloughs have been in effect since 2005
- In 1997 Pensions were eliminated for new employees and 401k's were offered
- Do not bond

Summary:

NASHTU seems to be very well organized and very keenly connected to the right politicians to whom our concerns can be promoted. Compared to PEF's involvement with the Area Labor Federation, I see NASHTU effectively promoting the causes of PEF's members. Mr. Martin Guinane, AFT Associate Director, (Organizer) was also present, as were representatives from several states. It was good to network and make connections. Specifically, Mr. William Brenner, AFSCME Assistant to the Executive Director, Council 13, shared that his Council had negotiated a contract provision which provides for his union to perform construction contract proposal reviews, & then offer counter proposals, and finally they have won arbitration rights over these same counter proposals.