

## **PRESS COVERAGE OF OBAMA'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO ASK CONGRESS FOR \$50 BILLION TO RENEW THE NATION'S ROADS, RAILWAYS AND RUNWAYS.**

**ABC World News** (9/6, lead story, 2:30, Muir) reported, "In a sign of just how high the stakes are when it comes to creating jobs and political survival, the Commander in Chief on this Labor Day became Campaigner in Chief." ABC (Karl) added, "Talking to union workers in Wisconsin, the President...came armed with a new proposal: \$50 billion in new spending on transportation projects -- enough, he said, to rebuild 150,000 miles of highways, 4,000 miles of railroad tracks."

**The CBS Evening News** (9/6, lead story, 2:55, Plante) said that Obama's proposals "could help the economy recover but would have little or no effect in the short term. ... But right now it's about the coming elections. ... Bottom line: Talk is about all the President can do. None of the economic incentives he's proposing this week is likely to make it through Congress by Election Day, so what he has to do and has to offer until then is the same thing he had to offer in the campaign of 2008, and that's hope."

**The AP** (9/7, Superville) describes Obama as "combative," and notes that "GOP leaders instantly assailed" his "proposal as an ineffective one that would simply raise already excessive federal spending. Many congressional Democrats are also likely to be reluctant to boost expenditures and increase federal deficits just weeks before elections that will determine control of Congress." And "that left the plan with low, if not impossible, odds of becoming law this year."

**The Washington Post** (9/7, Slevin) reports that to pay for yesterday's proposal, "the administration would raise taxes on oil and gas companies." The Post adds that in "addition to his infrastructure plan, Obama will lay out on Wednesday two new tax breaks for business: a permanent extension of the research tax credit worth \$100 billion over 10 years, and a plan to let companies write off 100 percent of their new investment in plant and equipment this year and next." While "the latter proposal would cost the Treasury about \$30 billion over the next decade...it would provide a much bigger boost to business in the short term, an administration official said Monday night, by encouraging companies to invest now, tax-free."

**Politico** (9/7, White) says Obama will announce the proposal "during a speech in Cleveland on Wednesday," as "part of an aggressive White House effort to both boost a struggling economy heading into a difficult midterm election -- and, in the case of the investment credit, to reverse a long-standing perception that the administration is hostile to the interests of big corporations."

**The Wall Street Journal** (9/7, Weisman, McKinnon) also reports the story under the headline "Obama To Push Tax Break," noting that White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel said yesterday that with his new proposals, "Without a doubt with this series, the president has seized the economic initiative." Meanwhile, the Manufacturers' executive vice president Jay Timmons said the proposal was "good at face value." *NBC Nightly News* (9/6, lead story, 3:20, Viqueira), the *New York Times* (9/7, A1, Stolberg,

Walsh), another *Wall Street Journal* (9/7, Fields) article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (9/7, Walker), and *Financial Times* (9/7, A1, Fifield) run additional stories on the President' speech.

Obama, Officials Appear To Disagree On Timing Of Plan's Impact. McClatchy (9/7, Thomma) reports that "Obama vowed that his new proposal would create jobs immediately." Said the President, "This will not only create jobs immediately, it's also going to make our economy hum over the long haul." McClatchy continues, "His administration also vowed an immediate jolt of new hiring." Labor Secretary Solis "told NBC's Today program the proposal 'will put people back to work immediately.'"

AFP (9/7, Collinson) reports that "Administration officials earlier said that the program would create new jobs in 2011, though the president said its impact would be felt 'immediately.'"

The Hill (9/7, Goode), meanwhile, reports, "One administration official stressed to reporters Monday that the infrastructure investment strategy 'is not a stimulus, immediate jobs plan' but rather a front-loaded six-year strategy."

The Chicago Tribune (9/7, Hennessey) reports, "Senior administration officials on Monday declined to make predictions about how many job could be created by the infrastructure plan. They said only that they expected results next year." The officials "resisted describing the \$50-billion proposal as a stimulus measure, instead casting it as part of a six-year transportation plan to be put before Congress in the fall. The bill would be 'front-loaded' to spend money quickly in hopes of creating jobs in the short term, they said." *Bloomberg News* (9/7, Goldman, Lerer) notes that "the economic stimulus package approved last year allocated \$38.6 billion for the Transportation Department, and so far \$18.5 billion has been paid out, according to a government website that tracks the spending."

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (9/6, Don Walker) \$50 billion jobs plan announced to rebuild nation's infrastructure, but GOP responds that the plan won't work

Energized by a friendly Labor Day crowd that helped put him in office, President Barack Obama reconnected with organized labor, announced a \$50 billion plan to rebuild the nation's infrastructure and create new jobs, and kicked off the start of the midterm election season by asking for help for his fellow Democrats.

POLITICO Obama unveils \$50B road, rail plan (9/6 Mike Allen and Abby Phillip) Seeking to bolster the sluggish economy, President Barack Obama used a Labor Day appearance in Milwaukee to announce he will ask Congress for \$50 billion to kick off a new infrastructure plan designed to expand and renew the nation's roads, railways and runways.

**Roll Call**, Obama Will Propose Infrastructure Spending as Next Step in Recovery (9/6, Melanie Starkey) President Barack Obama will unveil an infrastructure spending proposal during his Labor Day speech in Milwaukee on Monday as part of a larger package of economic initiatives he will outline Wednesday.