



Alabama Association of County Commissioners Proposed Plan to Improve County Roads in Alabama

The Association of County Engineers of Alabama (ACEA) voted to support a \$1.2 billion bond issue that the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA) is currently seeking legislative approval for in the 2017 legislative session. The proposal, approved at the ACCA Annual Legislative Conference late last year, calls for a three-cent per gallon increase on gasoline and diesel fuel that would expire when the bonds are repaid.

The \$1.2 billion total will be divided up amongst all 67 counties based, in part, on each county's population. ACCA Executive Director, Sonny Brasfield, said that the minimum allocation for each county under the proposal is \$10 million. The revenue from the bonds can only be spent on road and bridge projects. It cannot be spent on salaries, equipment, or any construction other than roads and bridges.

"For a person driving about 20,000 miles per year, which is a high estimate, this increase would cost about twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) a year. That's just a few cents over two-bucks a month. It doesn't seem like much, but that money will greatly improve the lives of Alabamians who drive on poor roads and bridges every day," said Brasfield.

ACEA President, David Palmer, said that this plan will leave a long lasting, positive impact on all counties in the state. "I believe in value and return on investment. If we don't invest in our infrastructure now, we will pay the price later. It will be less expensive to fix our roads and bridges now than to try and reclaim them after it's too late and the irreversible damage is done."

County Engineers are working to develop county specific maps that detail where the bond issue will positively affect their individual counties. Residents who are interested in sharing their most pressing road and bridge needs are encouraged to fill out a short survey found at www.drivealabama.org/about/survey.

