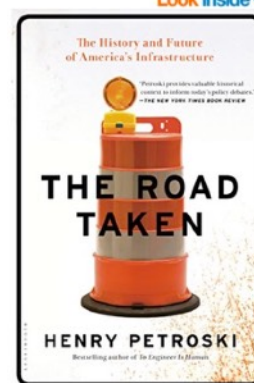
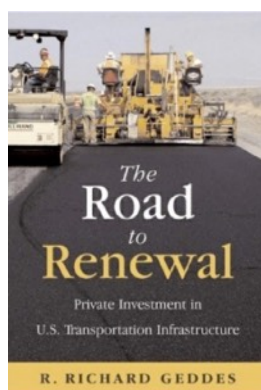
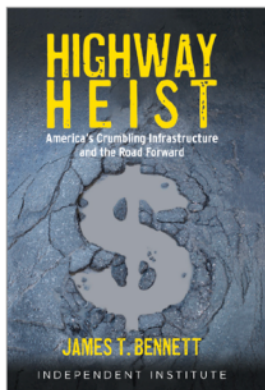
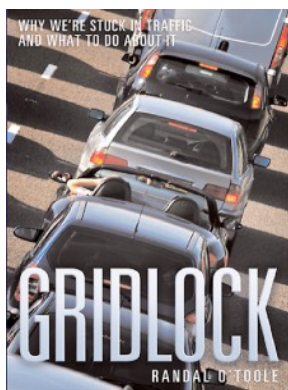


ECONOMIC FREEDOM & FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY



ECONOMIC THINKING WORKSHOP

- **Time:** 4-5 hours, morning/afternoon or afternoon/evening (with break)
- **Location:** Workshops usually hosted by local debate club.
- **Cost:** Usually \$25 per student, \$15 for siblings, no charge for parents or alumni
- **For more information:** contact **Greg Rehmke: grehmke@gmail.com**

Join us for a workshop on the economics and history of federal transportation policy. The federal government has funded canals, steamships, railroads, freeways, and space transportation, all in competition with private firms. Federal funding can be and has been politicized, with subsidies and regulations *captured* by established firms.

America faces diverse transportation challenges, from dysfunctional subway and train lines to over-budget light and high-speed rail projects, to congested and under-maintained freeways and bridges.

Randall O'Toole notes that state and federal roads were once funded by gas taxes, so people driving on roads paid for them. Later Congress started diverting gas taxes for other purposes and now electric Vehicles and higher-mileage cars provide less gas tax revenue.

- U.S. shipping is restricted by Federal regulations like the Jones Act and other special interest programs.
- Federal space transportation policy (Earth to orbit) is debated. Should NASA try to build it's own rockets, or let private firms replace state-run transportation to space?
- Should air traffic control system transferred to NGOs? Could private firms expand, own, or manage freeways?

Economic Thinking Workshops help students understand economics, public policy, and world affairs. Since 2003 more than 7,000 homeschool students and parents have attended workshops.



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Transportation Infrastructure

Reforming Federal Policy

Message to Debaters on the Economics of the 2012-2013 Debate Topic

by Randal O'Toole

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its transportation infrastructure investment in the United States.

Economics?
Economics deals with the allocation of scarce resources. The term "eco" comes from the Greek word for house and the term "nomos" comes from the Greek word for management, and the first "economists" were household managers. Today, the term economics has expanded to include the management of resources from the local to