

Time to Modernize How We Pay for Infrastructure

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The Trump administration has proposed an infrastructure plan that would help spur necessary investment. But it's also time to modernize how we pay for infrastructure, says ITIF President Rob Atkinson in an op-ed for Real Clear Policy.

There is bipartisan agreement that America's surface transportation infrastructure is increasingly strained and outmoded. In a welcome step forward, the Trump administration has proposed an infrastructure plan that would help spur necessary investment. But infrastructure improvements need a revenue stream, and the only sustainable way to pay for them going forward will be through tolls and other user fees. In an op-ed for *RealClearPolicy*, ITIF President Rob Atkinson writes in favor of a vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) system, a new approach to surface transportation infrastructure financing that would leverage technology to ensure users – particularly heavy trucks – pay their full costs.