




rails-to-trails
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(Re)Authorization Report

Delaware Bike Summit

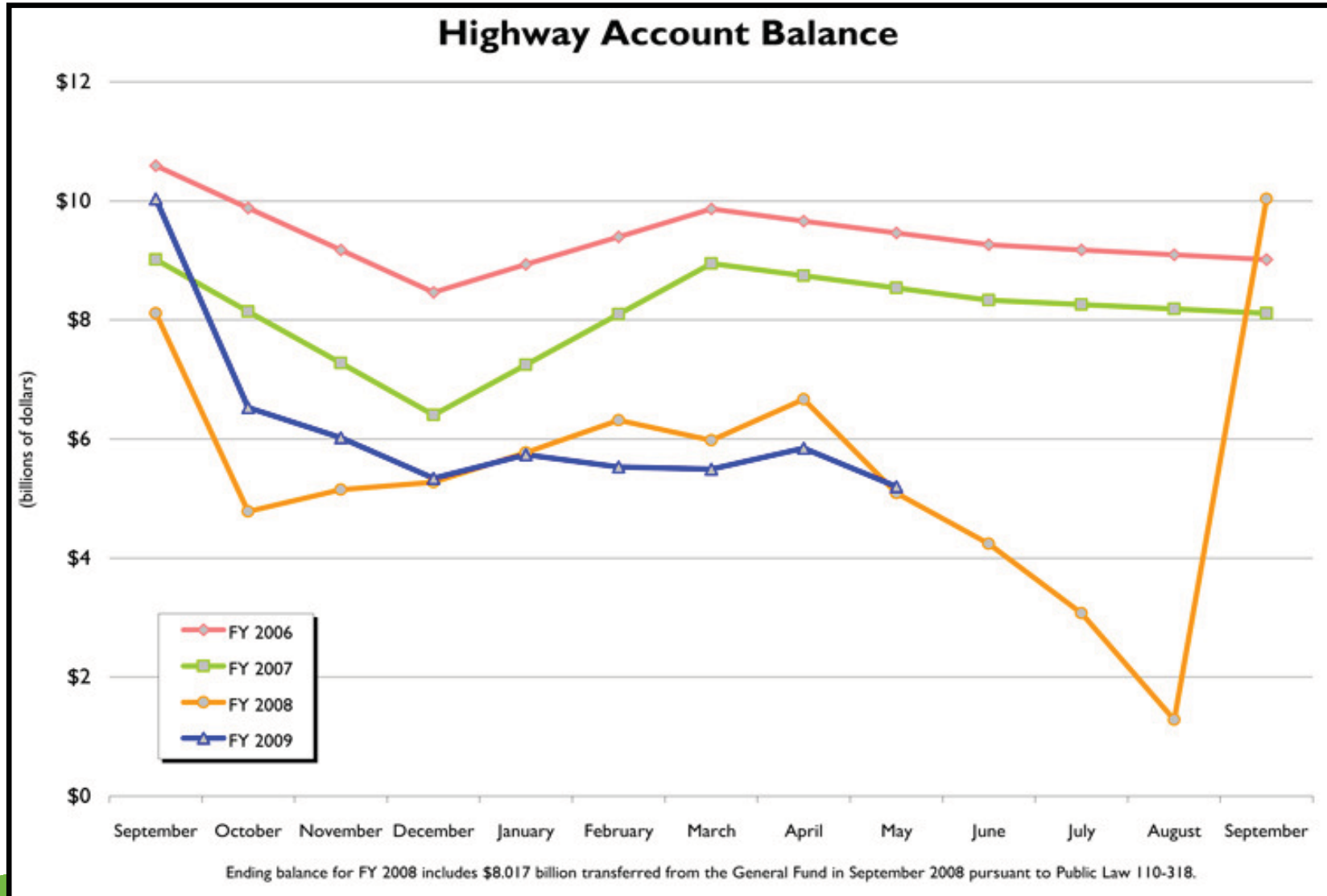
October 14, 2011



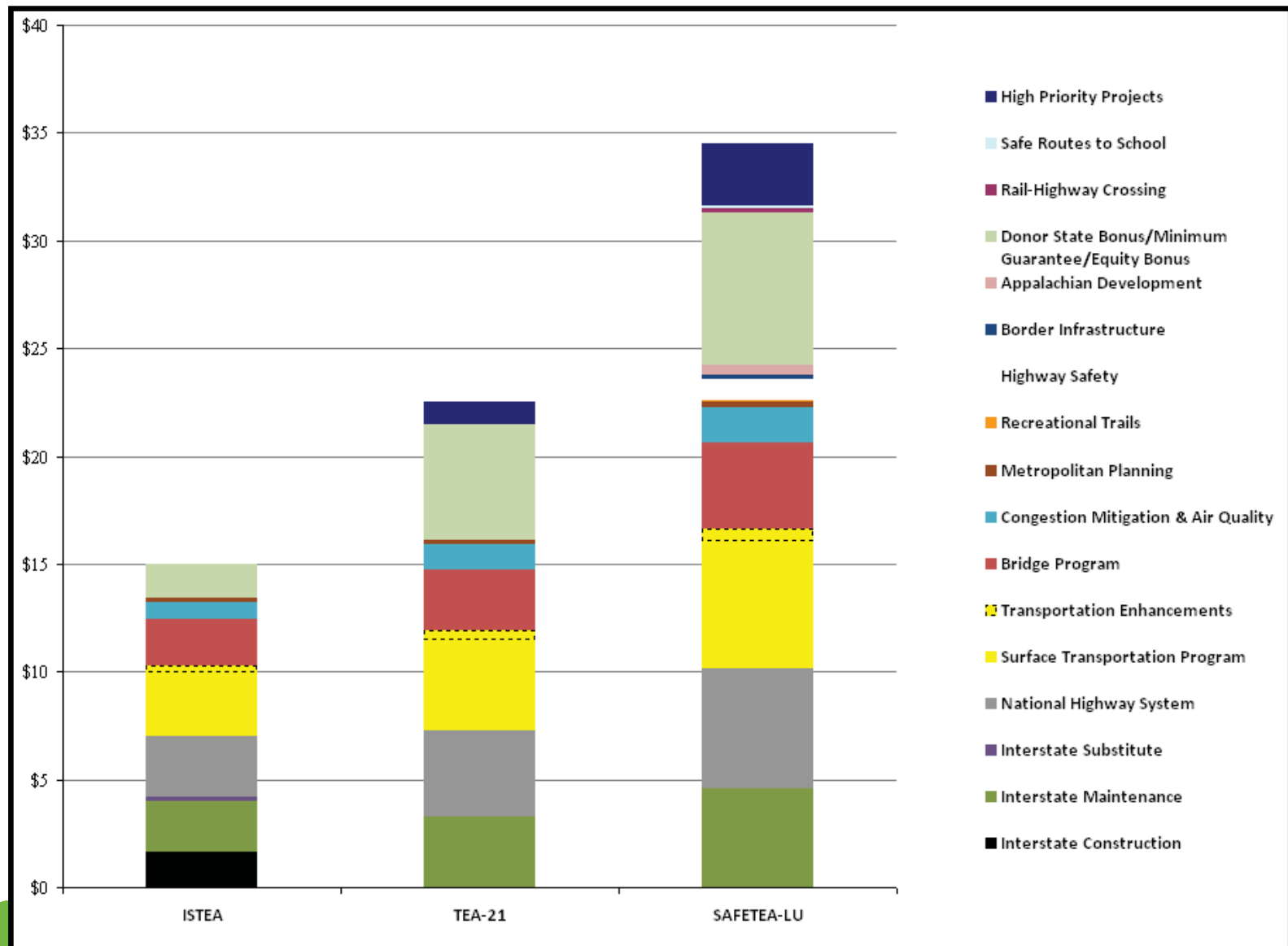


- **Why don't we have a bill yet?**
- **Who is in charge here?**
- **How did we get to this point?**
- **What is the current status?**
- **What might happen next?**

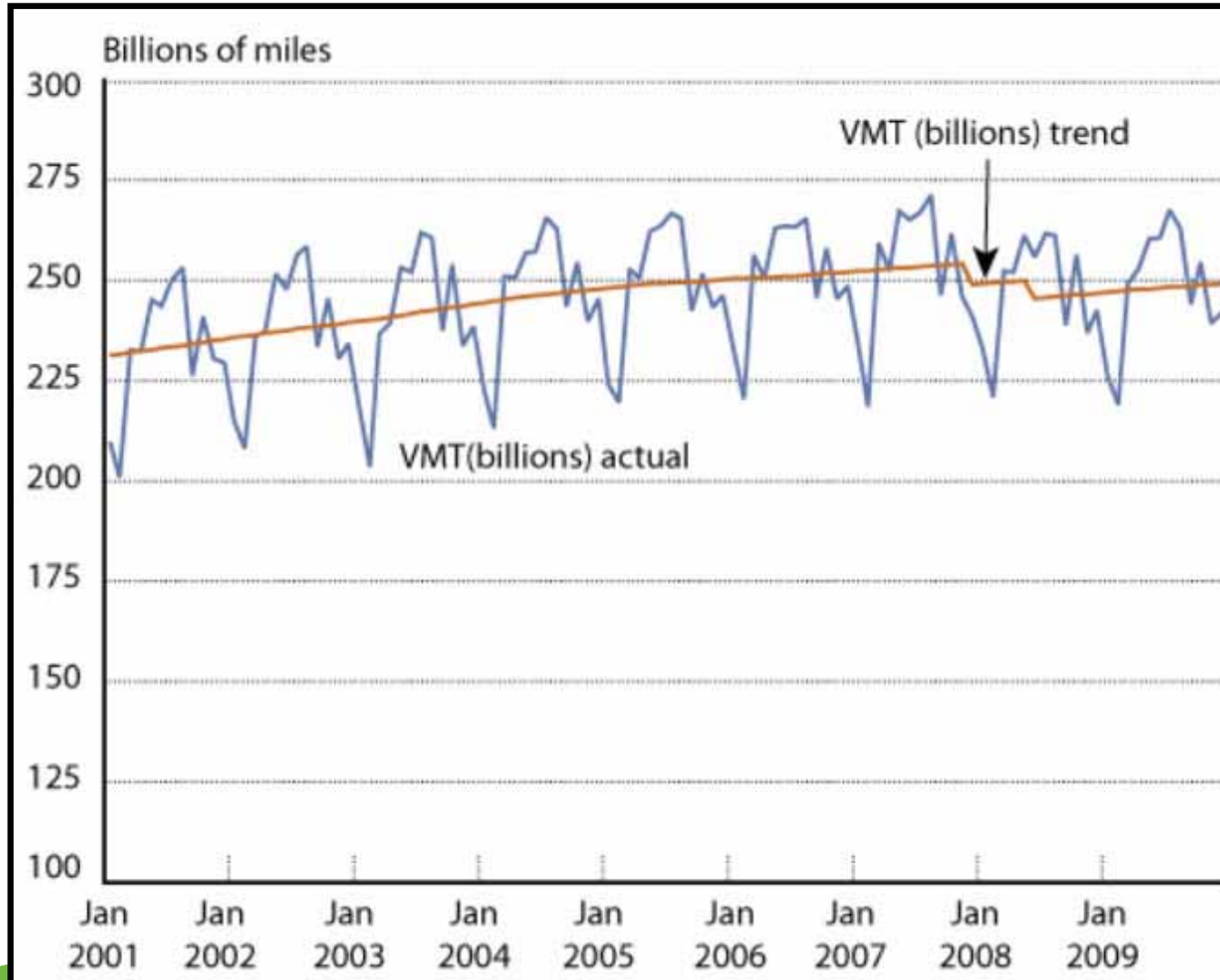
Why don't we have a bill yet?



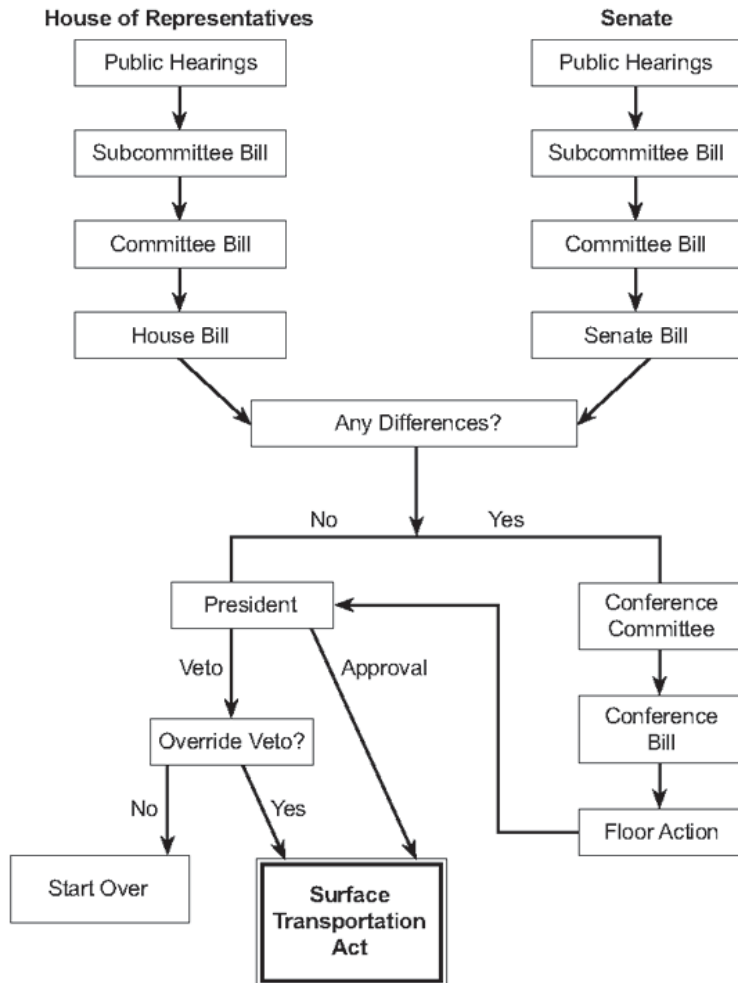
Three Authorizations in NON-inflation adjusted dollars



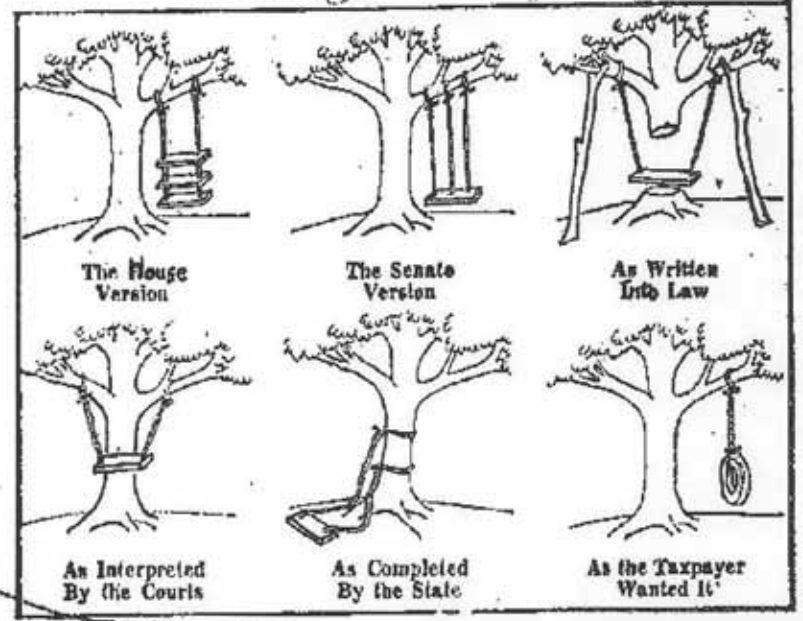
VMT (billions) – Actual and Trend, January 2001 – December 2009



Who is in charge here?



THE FOLLOWING IS entitled "Getting In to the Swing of Things and appeared in the Fort Meyers (Fla.) News-Press. Swift County News 4-26-72.



Surface Transportation's "Big Four"

House

Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee (T&I)

Chair: Mica (R-FL)

RM: Rahall (D-WV)

Subcommittee on Highways and
Transit

Chair: Duncan (R-TN)

RM: DeFazio (D-OR)

Senate

Environment and Public Works
Committee (EPW)

Chair: Boxer (D-CA)

RM: Inhofe (R-OK)

Subcommittee on Transportation
and Infrastructure

Chair: Baucus (D-MT)

RM: Vitter (R-LA)



Finance Committee!

Mica (R-FL)

- Representative from 7th district in Florida, suburbs between Orlando and Daytona Beach
- Chair of House T&I (term-limited)
- No dedicated funding for bicycling and walking in July proposal, 33% funding level reduction
- House leadership determined that the size of the bill could not exceed actual trust fund receipts.
- There is speculation that additional money might be freed up by the Deficit Supercommittee that could be added to the trust fund (still without raising the gas tax).



Congressman John Mica at a Safe Routes to School celebration last year in Volusia County, Florida.
Photo courtesy of Safe Routes Partnership

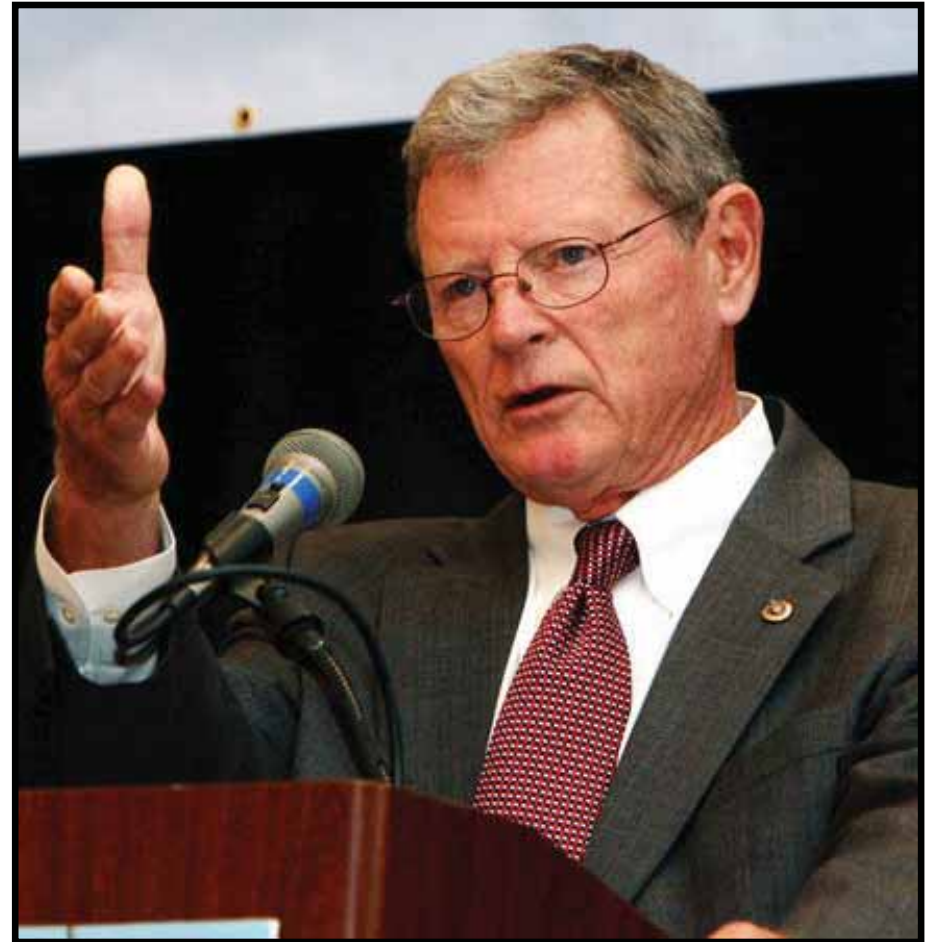
Boxer (D-CA)

- Chair of Senate EPW
- Has taken to the floor several times in the past few years to defend TE
- Details of agreement with Coburn to secure most recent clean extension still unclear
- Says TE, SRTS, and Rec Trails will be in EPW reauth proposal, but structure is unclear



Inhofe (R-OK)

- Ranking member of Senate EPW
- Wants a two-year bill that does not include TE set-aside or other bike funding
- Quoted in the media as saying federal spending on bike trails is 'frivolous,' climate change science 'fake'



Baucus (D-MT)

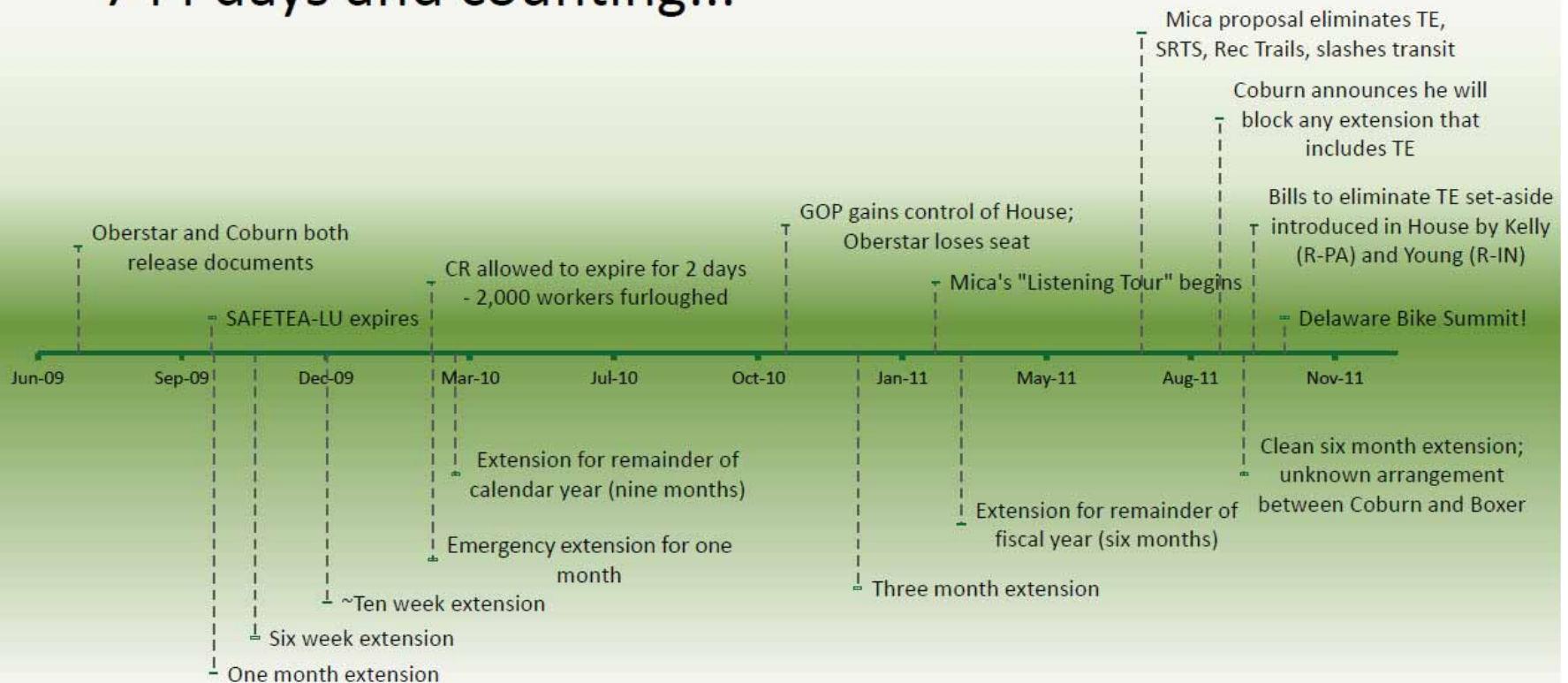
- Chair of Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, Chair of Finance Committee
- Wants a five-year bill that protects rural interests, but open to a two-year bill at higher spending levels



Senator Max Baucus dedicates a new pedestrian bridge in Bonner, MT on November 3, 2008

How Did We Get to This Point?

744 days and counting...

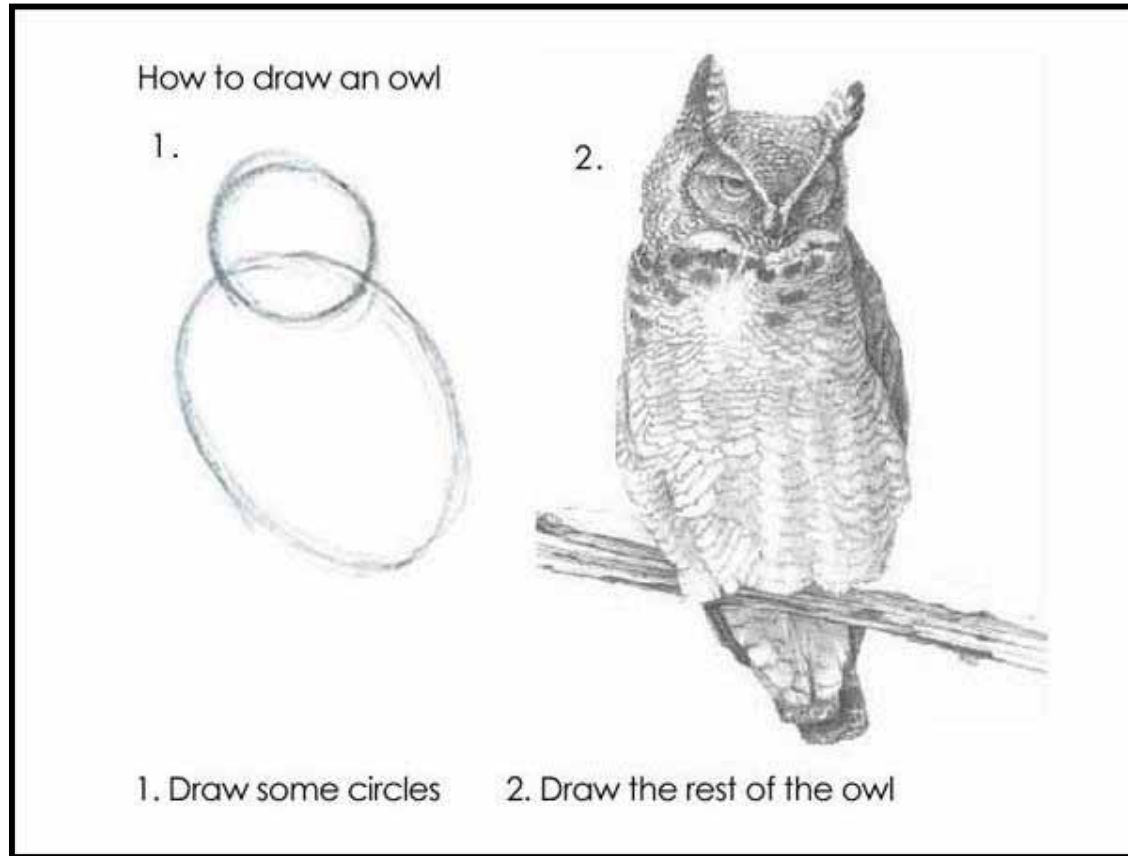


What is the current status?

- Current extension will expire March 31, 2012
- House “principles” with no TE, SRTS, or RTP has been released, but not full text yet
- Senate has not released language, but agreement between Boxer and Oklahoma senators could be key
- Now is a great time to let your representative know you support dedicated federal funding for bicycling and walking, and get your friends in California, Montana, and Oklahoma to do the same!



What might happen next?




What is RTC doing?



rails-to-trails
conservancy
25 years



What can Delaware do?

- Delaware has a very good, responsive Congressional delegation on our issues
 - Senator Carper is on the EPW committee and has been exceptionally supportive
 - In order to stand firm with Senators Inhofe and Coburn, Senator Boxer needs her committee colleagues at her side
 - It will take more than just Senator Boxer to bring dedicated funding for our key programs across the finish line
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Thank You!

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Happy Trails!

