BATON ROUGE - On the eve of one of the nation's busiest travel days of the year, Louisiana's top highway advocacy group called on the state's Congressional delegation to put all partisan differences aside to help pass a new highway bill and stabilize the federal highway trust fund.

"As Louisiana drivers take to the road for the Independence Day holiday, I hope they recognize that the very transportation system they depend upon is threatened by Congressional gridlock," said Kenneth Perret, president of the Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation Association.

Perret explained that the highway trust fund, which is the federal government's main source of revenue for highways, is out of money. The Federal Highway Administration already has warned states that reimbursements for federal-eligible highway projects will be delayed unless Congress takes action in the next 30 days. The situation gets worse if Congress does not authorize a new highway bill before September 30, which marks the end of the federal fiscal year.

"Louisiana's transportation system is a cornerstone of our economy. Without safe, well-maintained roads and bridges, we become an immobile society, and our long-term business climate suffers," Perret said. "It is vitally important that our United States senators and representatives recognize that this is not a Democratic or Republican issue - it is an economic issue that also affects our citizens' safety, mobility and quality of life."
Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation Association is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering and promoting a program of planning, design, construction and maintenance of an adequate transportation system, sufficiently financed, which will conveniently and safely serve the transportation needs of the people of Louisiana.

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