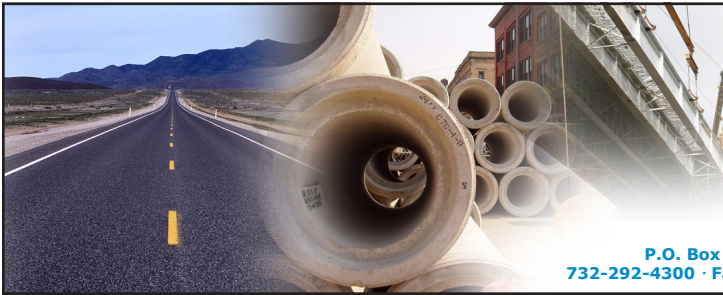


# Utility & Transportation Contractors Association



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## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

March  
2015

### FIGHT TO RENEW STATE'S TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND CONTINUES

UTCA has enjoyed several legislative successes this winter, however, our biggest initiative still remains unresolved: renewal of the State's Transportation Trust Fund.

The single most critical issue our industry faces today is the renewal of the broken New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). The need to renew the fund is undeniable, however the Governor chose not to mention the TTF in either his State of the State speech or annual Budget Address. While the Governor stated on his monthly radio show that "there is no crisis" and that he believes the TTF is "pretty well funded" he has met with the Senate President and Assembly Speaker to discuss the renewal of the TTF. No renewal deal has emerged from those meetings.

At a recent Assembly Transportation Committee hearing, UTCA Executive Director Anthony Attanasio went on the record that this is not only a crisis but is in fact actually a ca-



UTCA CEO Bob Briant and Executive Director Anthony Attanasio joined Senate President Stephen Sweeney and UTCA member and Senate Budget Chairman Paul Sarlo at a press conference in Newark to discuss the need for a new tunnel under the Hudson River.

tastrophe. The TTF will have an annual debt service starting in State FY 2016 of \$1.2 billion while only receiving approximately \$900 million in revenue resulting in a \$300 million annual shortfall just to pay the debt service. Therefore, the State has no funds for future projects beyond the next fiscal year, while New Jersey's bridges were recently ranked 6th worst in the nation and our roads are also in unacceptable condition. As a backup, the Administration has cobbled together funding for one more year using more borrowed money and one-shot funding sources that will force the NJDOT to make decisions that could harm our industry for several years.

Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Prieto and Assembly Transportation Chairman John Wisniewski have kept the TTF as the main focus in Trenton but the Governor's silence on this issue is deafening. In February, UTCA CEO Bob Briant, Jr. was invited to meet with the Senate President and Speaker as part of an exclusive group of industry leaders to work on a permanent solution to the TTF crisis. In addition, Anthony Attanasio will appear this weekend on NJTV's "On the Record with Michael Aaron" alongside Assemblyman Wisniewski to continue to focus the State's attention on this crisis. The UTCA will continue to work with the ForwardNJ coalition to lobby for a long term, robust and sustainable funding source for the TTF.

### CONGRESS BEGINS TO WORK ON REAUTHORIZING THE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

In Washington D.C., there appears to be bipartisan support to renew the federal highway trust fund. Leading members from the Senate and House, both Republican and Democrat, continue to highlight the need for a long term and adequately funded trust fund. Congressman Frank LoBiondo(R-2), Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-9) and Congressman Tom MacArthur (R-3) are representing New Jersey well on the issue. Congressman MacArthur has even co-

sponsored a bill called the "Partnership to Build America Act of 2015" (H.R. 413). This bill establishes the American Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to provide bond guarantees and make loans to state and local governments, non-profit infrastructure providers, private parties, and public-private partnerships for state or local government sponsored transportation, energy, water, communications, or educational facility infrastructure projects. The bill would also amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow U.S. corporations to exclude gross income qualified revenues received during a taxable year from a foreign-controlled corporation (repatriation). We are encouraged that Congressman MacArthur is working across the aisle on innovative new ways to fund infrastructure projects in America.

Congressional hearings to address the reauthorization of MAP-21 have begun. UTCA will update its membership as action occurs concerning this most important matter.

## **UTCA ACTS ON SEVERAL LEGISLATIVE BILLS**

UTCA was recently successful in seeing several of the bills that the association supported and/or amended become law and one measure that UTCA aggressively opposed vetoed by Governor Christie. We are pleased to report that the "Permit Extension Act" (A-3815), has been signed into law. This bill extends the expiration date of current permit approvals to December 31, 2015. In addition, the Governor signed "The Water Infrastructure Protection Act" (A3628) into law. This bill authorizes municipalities and municipal, county, and regional utilities authorities to lease or sell their water or wastewater assets to a private entity, without a referendum, if an emergent condition exists. UTCA was able to secure several crucial amendments to the measure that benefit the industry and worked closely with a coalition of business, utility companies and labor organizations to aid the passage of this bill which included a last minute push to secure the 21st "yes" vote in the Senate.

We were also pleased that Governor Christie vetoed S-1811, also known as the "Buy America" bill. This bill would have required government contractors to use goods made in the United States; and it required businesses that receive government contracts or government assistance to disclose job exportation information. This legislation, while well intentioned, would have slowed public projects and added dramatically to the contractor's compliance costs. Additionally, the requirements noted in the bill would have created more red tape for contractors, subcontractors and material companies, stall project decisions and could jeopardize relations with New Jersey's international trade partners. Finally, the bill could potentially conflict with federal "Buy America" provisions which could jeopardize federal funding on transportation projects. UTCA coordinated with the State Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey Business & Industry Association and the New Jersey Department of Transportation in opposing this legislation.

The UTCA continues to be the industry leader in both Trenton and Washington D.C. and will continue to tirelessly advocate on your behalf.

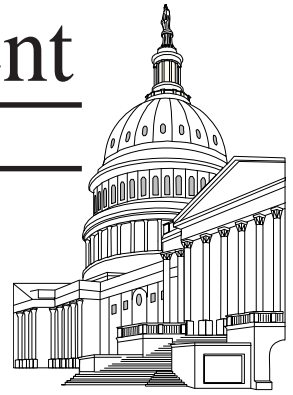
## **UTCA PAC CLUB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!**

UTCA continues to represent the utility and transportation construction industry vigorously before our governmental decision-makers. Over the past several years, the Association has been responsible for developing, drafting and securing final passage of laws that have directly impacted our members. Each week, UTCA staff monitors thousands of existing and newly introduced legislative initiatives and energetically opposed any measure that would be harmful to our industry and your business.

Whether your firm is large or small, UTCA's PAC Club program has a membership level designed to fit your financial capabilities. There are 8 different PAC Club memberships. **UTCA urges you to please use the enclosed 2015 PAC Contribution Form** and return it to the association office with your firm's financial support.

# Constructors For Good Government

*Please Support Your Industry PAC*



## 2015 Contribution Form

Contributions to Constructors For Good Government go a long way in our efforts to educate members of the Legislature and the Administration to the needs of construction. Please check the appropriate club membership for your firm. **Please remember that contributions to Constructors For Good Government are legally permissible under all State pay-to-play laws.**

Club Memberships:

President's Club - \$10,000 \_\_\_\_\_

Governor's Club - \$7,200 \_\_\_\_\_

Ambassador's Club - \$5,000 \_\_\_\_\_

Leadership Club - \$2,500 \_\_\_\_\_

Platinum Club - \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_

Gold Club - \$500 \_\_\_\_\_

Silver Club - \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

Bronze Club - \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPANY CHECKS ARE ACCEPTABLE**

Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. **Checks should be made payable to *Constructors For Good Government* .**

FIRM

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Please return this form with your check (**payable to Constructors For Good Government**) to the UTCA office.

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