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## Two Months Is Enough Time to Figure Out A Responsible Transportation Approach May 29, 2015

President Obama signed into law a two-month extension of the Highway Trust Fund. The authorization for spending expires at the end of May, but there is enough money in the trust fund to cover spending through August.

“This patch gives policymakers time to come up with a permanent solution for the highway funding shortfall, and they should use that time wisely. Too often, Congress acts like frazzled high school students, waiting until the last second to get their work turned in. It would be irresponsible for Congress to report back in two months with a proposal to extend the patch with a grab bag of budget gimmicks,” said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

“Instead of waiting until the last minute, Congress and the President should begin work today to put together a long-term highway bill and identify permanent funding.”

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget’s recently released plan, [\*The Road to Sustainable Highway Spending\*](#), would give Congress a “fast lane” to use tax reform as a vehicle for transportation funding; and if tax reform didn’t succeed, it would automatically raise the gas tax to current spending levels and then limit future spending to revenue. This plan represents one of [many](#) responsible [plans](#) and [ideas](#) to put the Highway Trust Fund on a better course.

“Instead of worrying that the choices are too hard and the timeline too short, the next two months should be reserved for finding solutions,” MacGuineas said. “Congress can’t keep kicking the can down the road, and then complain when the road is full of potholes.”

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