

InfrastructureUSA

Guest on THE INFRA BLOG

Congressman John Mica (R-FL), Republican Leader, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Conversation with Steve Anderson, Managing Director, InfrastructureUSA

John Mica:

Are we making progress?

We've got a ways to go. I think speeding up the process, finding innovative ways of financing, not doing things in sort of the traditional mode, whether it's high-speed rail or new surface transportation projects. We've got to be innovative, and we've also got to leverage the limited funds that we have coming in.

Citizen engagement on transportation infra

I think there's no question. I think the public, while they don't come out and say "transportation is an issue," we're suffering from congestion from sea to shining sea. People couldn't make it to The Mall if they didn't use some form of transportation to get there, so it's an issue and it's just hidden and I think if we could come up with innovative solutions I think the public would react—look at history with the development of rail, the steamships, aviation, the interstate. Now, we need to get to the next innovative approach to transportation and it will capture imagination.

We all need more infra education

The most important thing is educating the public, and also members of Congress. Most members of Congress don't know the difference between, for example, high-speed rail, commuter rail and light rail. They don't know how the system is funded. They don't know enough specifics about alternatives that are available around the world but not in the United States, so education in this process is very important.

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