After Neglecting Transportation in Budget, Brown Calls For New Taxes

Just as Brown signed the largest state budget in California's history, weighing in at over $110 billion, the state's transportation infrastructure roads, highways, bridges, and the like have been neglected. This "brick-and-mortar" function of state government in the state's economic plan is especially eye-opening when one considers the $30 billion California is paying to subsidize for Brown's pet project--constructing a high-speed rail to connect the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California--at a projected cost of nearly $70 billion.

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Poll: 53 percent think feds should increase highway spending

A majority of U.S. residents would like to see the federal government increase its spending on the nation's roads and bridges, according to a poll that was conducted recently by the Associated Press and GfK. The poll shows 53 percent of the nation's population think Congress "should increase spending to build up and improve roads, bridges and interstate highways." About 83 percent of U.S. residents "think the current spending levels are about right," while 10 percent "would like to see more money spent on roads and bridges," according to the poll. The findings come as lawmakers are struggling to come up with a way to pay for an infrastructure program that would at least keep the spending levels flat past this summer amid a July 31 deadline for the expiration of the current infrastructure measures in place.

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Panel approves bill to boost federal port oversight

The Senate committee overseeing the nation's infrastructure approved legislation on Thursday to "transparency" of U.S. ports in a series of recent steps moves that threaten the flow of cargo shipments. The legislation, S. 1250, which has been read as creating "a new level of transparency and accountability," was approved by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. The panel's chairman, Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), said the measure would ease the burden for lawmakers to spot potential problems at ports before they experience the kind of labor strife that resulted in a partial shutdown of 29 ports on the West Coast earlier this year.

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Seraphim Solar to build manufacturing facility in Jackson

Seraphim Solar Manufacturing USA Inc. has announced plans to construct a solar module assembly plant in Jackson that is expected to create 250 jobs during the first five years of operations. The project represents a $30 million investment with an anticipated annual payroll of $2.3 million. With the addition of this facility in the USA, Seraphim's global expansion has reached 12 gigawatts of capacity worldwide, company officials said.

"We are extremely excited about successfully recruiting Seraphim Solar to our state," said Mayor Tony Y. Gaskins. "Working with a company that will provide innovative solutions that attract and grow the country's consumers among the energy industry.

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Is Amazon a 3PL?

Amazon.com has come a long way since its founder and chief executive officer, Jeff Bezos, envisioned the company as a virtual bookstore. It has evolved into an online retail giant that generated $124.4 billion in revenues in 2015, much of that coming from third-party sellers. Amazon now has more than 2 million companies that use Amazon to sell their products online and distribute them to customers. Under the company's "marketplace" programs, Amazon not only provides its customers with a means of advertising and selling their products, but also offers to store those products in fulfillment centers, pick and pack them, and provide customer service, including handling returns.

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