



‘Deafening Silence’ From Congress on Highway Tolling Plan: Group

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(Bloomberg) -- Raising taxes, fees “of any kind is anathema to Congress,” has stalled President Obama’s proposal to allow tolls on existing free highways, Patrick Jones, executive director of International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Assn, says at Bloomberg Government breakfast.

- Tolling would give states reliable funding stream for roads, can help reduce congestion through “price-managed lanes”
- Congress will likely find way to patch Highway Trust Fund after July recess, though temporary fixes to prevent it from going broke are “really not a smart way to govern”: Jones
- Jones says he also supports a gas-tax increase and vehicle-miles traveled tax to give fund a long-term, predictable source of revenue
- NOTE: Assn represents toll road owners and operators, including N.J. Turnpike, N.Y.-N.J. Port Authority, Illinois Tollway, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, North Texas Tollway Authority
- NOTE: Senate Finance Cmte [earlier was said to put off vote](#) on trust-fund fix; Sen. Orrin Hatch [says he’s confident](#) of finding “suitable path forward” in working with House Ways and Means Cmte chairman

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