



EXPERTS | 2012

HNTB expert:

**Pete Rahn**

Leader National Transportation Practice  
HNTB Corporation

“The very nature of highway and transit construction means you need a long-term stream of revenues to provide certainty for planning and multi-year construction. States simply can’t rely on the existing financing of the Federal Highway Trust Fund, which is being kept alive by a series of general fund transfers.”

As leader of HNTB’s national transportation practice group, Pete Rahn develops and directs strategies that enhance HNTB’s service to state departments of transportation across the country.

Rahn joined HNTB in 2010 from the Missouri Department of Transportation, where as director, he led more than 6,000 employees responsible for providing a safe and efficient transportation system in Missouri. From 1995 to 2002, he was cabinet secretary over the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, making Rahn one of only a handful of people who have led a DOT in two states.

Rahn shares insights from DOTs nationwide as well as knowledge of federal legislation and policy gained from his tenure as president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, an organization that represents all state DOTs.

Additionally, he can speak on a wide variety of issues directly affecting the nation’s and states’ transportation systems, including:

**Accountability in government agencies is critical to earning trust and gaining resources.** Using performance-driven criteria, agencies can drive

down project costs, speed timetables and be more customer-focused when responding to citizens.

**Transportation is critical to our nation’s commerce.** As more attention is paid to “liveability,” we must not lose sight of the vital role roads, highways and bridges play in the movement of goods and delivery of services. The liveability efforts are to be applauded, as part of a multi-modal approach to improving our transportation system.

**Transportation changes are coming down the road.** As a country, we have to decide how we’re going to pay for transportation. The gas tax is not sufficient for maintaining our existing infrastructure, and doesn’t allow for future growth. There is no one-size-fits-all solution, but vehicle-miles-traveled fees, tolling and managed lanes are among the alternatives.

**What are the biggest challenges to financing transportation projects?** Raising taxes is very difficult during these tough economic times. Fortunately, there are other options available for funding projects crucial to a region’s transportation system, including public-private partnerships and tolling.

**Education:**

- Bachelor of Science, Planning, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM
- Bachelor of Arts, Government, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

**Professional affiliations:**

- President – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington, DC, Oct. 2007-Nov. 2008
- Member – Transportation Research Board, Executive Committee, Washington, DC, 2006-2010
- Chairman – Standing Committee on Performance Management, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington, DC, 2008-2010
- Member – Transportation Research Board, Task Force on Accelerating Innovation in Highway Industry, Washington, DC, 1999-2009

**Awards and recognition:**

- Leadership Award, Design-Build Institute of America, 2010
- The Power List, Rebuilding America's Infrastructure, 2010
- Community Improvement Award, Missouri Growth Association, 2010
- Public Official of the Year, *Governing Magazine*, 2009
- Lester P. Lamm Memorial Award, The Washington Road Gang, 2009
- Vision Award, National Council on Public-Private Partnerships, 2008
- Most Influential Saint Louisans, *St. Louis Business Journal*, 2008
- Top 25 Newsmakers of 2002, *Engineering News-Record*
- New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award, NMDPSA Council, 2001

**Select media and appearances:**

- *Highway Builder*, Winter 2012 – “Envision Transportation Assets as Utilities”
- Bloomberg News, March 26, 2012 – “Road Work Halt Days Away as Congress Argues Funding Bill”
- *National Journal* Transportation Experts Blog, May 17, 2011 – “Make Information Accessible”
- Associated Press, Aug. 9, 2011 – “Rough Ride for Highway Funds”
- *Bond Buyer*, Sept. 7, 2010 – “Transportation Bill Could Stall Until 2013”
- *Journal of Commerce*, Aug. 25, 2010 – “Former Highway Official Calls for Transportation Funding Plan”
- *Rebuilding America's Infrastructure*, Aug. 2010 – “Transportation prospects dire while funding stuck in mire”
- *Kansas City Business Journal*, May 2, 2010 – “Q&A with Pete Rahn, senior vice president, HNTB Corp.”
- *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, April, 4, 2010 – “Rahn Shares his View of MoDOT's Future”
- U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, March 3, 2010 – Testified on importance of transportation investments to the national economy and jobs
- *Bond Buyer*, March 4, 2010 – “Obama ‘Principles’ Coming in 90 Days”
- Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Jan. 14, 2010 – Presentation, “Meeting Our Growing Transportation Challenges in an Era of Reduced Resources”
- *Engineering News-Record*, Nov. 9, 2009 – “Stimulus is Boosting Projects Throughout the Country”

To schedule an interview with Pete Rahn and for more information, contact:

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