

11 Deeply Alarming Facts About America's Crumbling Infrastructure

No matter what your particular political perspective is, if there is one thing that virtually everyone in the United States can agree on, it is the fact that America's infrastructure is crumbling.

Previous generations of Americans conquered an entire continent and erected the greatest system of infrastructure that the world had ever seen, but now thousands upon thousands of those extremely impressive infrastructure projects are decades old and in desperate need of repair or upgrading. The near catastrophic failure of the Oroville Dam is a perfect example of what I am talking about. We should be constructing the next generation of infrastructure projects for our children and our grandchildren, but instead, we are in such sorry shape that we can't even keep up with the maintenance and upkeep on the great infrastructure projects that have been handed down to us.

Once upon a time, nobody on the entire planet could even come close to matching our infrastructure, but now our crumbling infrastructure has become a joke to much of the rest of the industrialized world. Sadly, this is just another symptom of our long-term economic collapse. We simply are not able to put as much of our money toward infrastructure as previous generations of Americans did, and as a result, we have a giant mess on our hands. The following are 11 deeply alarming facts about America's crumbling infrastructure:

1. According to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, nearly 56,000 bridges in the United States are currently "structurally deficient." What makes that number

even more chilling is the fact that vehicles cross those bridges a total of 185 million times a day.

2. More than one out of every four bridges in the United States are more than 50 years old and “have never had major reconstruction work”.

3. America does not have a single airport that is considered to be in the top 25 in the world.

4. The average age of America’s dams is now 52 years.

5. Not too long ago, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the condition of America’s dams a “D” grade.

6. Overall, the American Society of Civil Engineers said that the condition of America’s infrastructure as a whole only gets a “D+” grade.

7. Congestion on our highways costs Americans approximately 101 billion dollars a year in wasted fuel and time.

8. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, over two-thirds of our roads are “in dire need of repair or upgrades.”

9. In order to completely fix all of our roads and bridges, it would take approximately \$808 billion.

10. Federal spending on infrastructure has decreased by 9 percent over the past decade.

11. According to Bloomberg, it is being projected “that by 2025, shortfalls in infrastructure investment will subtract as much as \$3.9 trillion from U.S. gross domestic product.”

The quality of our infrastructure affects all of our lives every single day. For instance, we all simply take it for granted that safe, clean drinking water will come out of our

taps, but recent events have shown that is not necessarily always going to be the case.

Just ask the residents of Flint, Michigan.

Water pipes, sewer systems and water treatment facilities all over the nation are aging and are in desperate need of repair. Of course, the exact same thing could be said about our power grid. It was never intended to handle so many people, and on the hottest days of the summer, the strain on the grid is very evident.

And of course the power grid is exceedingly vulnerable to an electromagnetic pulse event, and this is something that I covered in my book on getting prepared. It has been projected that it would only cost a couple billion dollars to harden the grid against an EMP event, but our politicians refuse to spend the money.

Meanwhile, President Trump is completely correct when he says that our airports look like something you would see in a third-world country. Most of our airports are at least several decades old, and they are definitely showing their age.

But things are even worse when you look at other systems of mass transit around the country. While other nations such as Japan and China are investing huge amounts of money into high speed rail, we are doing next to nothing, even though what we currently have is absolutely pathetic.

I could go on and talk about our ports, schools, waterways, parks and so on, but I think you get the point.

President Trump's instincts are right on the money when he says that he wants to spend a trillion dollars on infrastructure. Without a doubt, we desperately need it.

The problem is that we are flat broke.

We are \$20 trillion in debt, and we are adding more than a

trillion dollars to that total every year.

So where are we going to get the money?

It is easy for liberals to say we should raise taxes, but how much more are you going to squeeze out of U.S. consumers? Two-thirds of the country is living paycheck to paycheck, and we just learned that U.S. household debt has risen to a grand total of \$ trillion.

Once upon a time, America was the wealthiest nation on the entire planet and we could afford to construct bold, new infrastructure projects from sea to shining sea.

But today, we have the biggest mountain of debt in the history of the world, and we can't even afford to repair what we already have.

When I speak of our long-term economic collapse, this is precisely the sort of thing that I am talking about. We have clearly been in decline for a very long time, and anyone who would suggest otherwise is simply not being honest. {eoa}