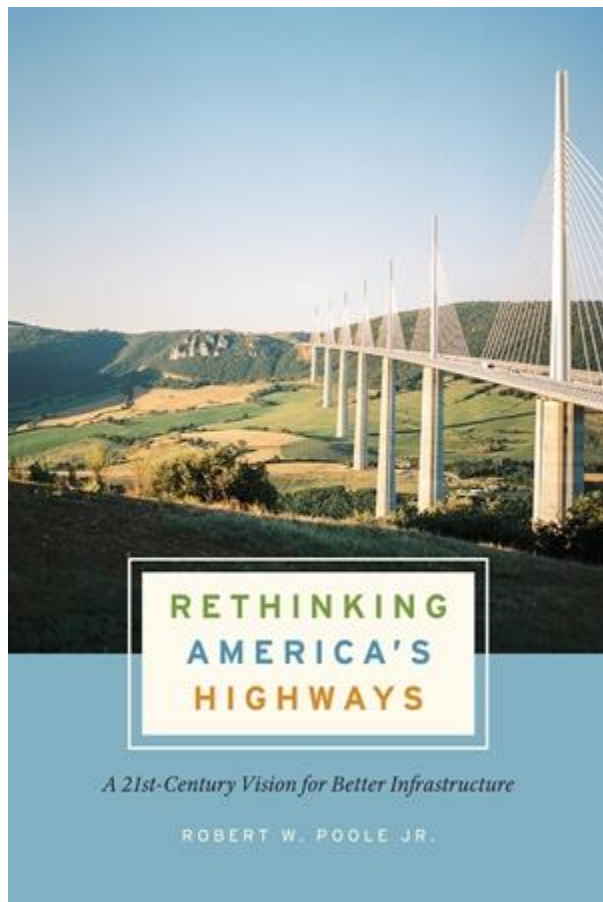


Rethinking America's Highways

A 21st-Century Vision for Better Infrastructure

By Robert W. Poole Jr.



Americans spend hours every day sitting in traffic. And the roads they idle on are often rough and potholed, their exits, tunnels, guardrails, and bridges in terrible disrepair. According to transportation expert Robert Poole, this congestion and deterioration are outcomes of the way America provides its highways. Our twentieth-century model overly politicizes highway investment decisions, short-changing maintenance and often investing in projects whose costs exceed their benefits.

In *Rethinking America's Highways*, Poole examines how our current model of state-owned highways came about and why it is failing to satisfy its customers. He argues for a new model that treats highways themselves as public utilities—like electricity, telephones, and water supply. If highways were provided commercially, Poole argues, people would pay for highways based on how much they used, and the companies would issue revenue bonds to invest in facilities people were willing to pay for. Arguing for highway investments to be motivated by economic rather than political factors, this book makes a carefully reasoned and well-documented case for a new approach to highways that is sure to inform future decisions and policies for U.S. infrastructure.

“Robert Poole’s bold, innovative thinking on infrastructure could not come at a better time. . . . This book is a must-read for anyone wanting a clear policy guide for moving US infrastructure into the 21st century.”—**Rick Geddes**, Cornell University

“Poole offers a well-reasoned transition from the failing 20th-century highway model to one that can sustain and support our country for the 21st century.”—**Mary Peters**, former US Secretary of Transportation

Robert W. Poole Jr. is director of transportation policy at Reason Foundation, a public policy think tank, and is the author or editor of five previous books on public policy.

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