



EXPERTS | 2019

HNTB expert:

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“America’s transportation system is the lifeblood of our economy, creating jobs and expanding opportunities, connecting us all to centers of commerce and neighborhoods, and securing a sound quality of life in our communities.”

John Barton serves as national DOT market sector leader and senior vice president. Barton works in collaboration with HNTB’s offices across the nation to help develop and direct national strategy to enhance HNTB’s services to state departments of transportation across the nation.

Barton’s experience includes nearly 30 years at the Texas Department of Transportation, serving in increasingly responsible positions, including his most recent as deputy executive director, administration. In this role, he directed and oversaw all TxDOT operations and the management and operation of the state’s transportation system.

Prior to joining HNTB, Barton served as associate vice chancellor and executive director of the RELLIS Campus of Texas A&M University, directing all activities related to the development and operation of the new TAMUS RELLIS Campus. He also provided executive oversight of the operations, research, innovation, education and workforce development activities of the new Center of Infrastructure Renewal. Barton served as a key staff member of Commissioner John Sharp’s “Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas.” In addition, he led multiple strategic initiatives for the Texas A&M University System and its Engineering Experiment Station.

Barton’s comprehensive knowledge of industry issues and trends enables him to provide timely insights about a variety of transportation topics including:

- **U.S. infrastructure investment**

It’s well established that investments in transportation deliver returns that are impactful in many ways. Yet, the U.S. transportation system falls short of meeting the nation’s current needs, let alone having the strength to support a population that’s projected to reach 400 million people by 2058. The nation’s demands for transportation infrastructure investment can only be addressed through strong political leadership. Now is the time for U.S. leaders to unite to pass a comprehensive, sustainable transportation infrastructure bill.

- **Highway Trust Fund solvency and diverse funding sources**

Making the Highway Trust Fund solvent and sustainable is a top priority. Currently, it can cover only about \$34 billion of the \$50 billion the federal government disburses for roads, with the remainder coming from the general fund. A federal fuel tax increase would provide much-needed revenue for transportation infrastructure projects. However, fuel taxes alone cannot cover the nation’s future funding requirements. An “all of the above” approach is needed that includes tolling, vehicle-miles-traveled fees, traditional sales taxes and charges, and other innovative ideas.

- **Efficient infrastructure investment**

Once adequate funding is in place, one challenge facing states and cities is ensuring funds are allocated to the most valuable priorities, in the most effective ways. Tactics to consider that can help meet this challenge include increasing collaboration among transportation agencies and across the private sector, reforming transportation policies to allow more diverse use of funds, encouraging innovation and technological advancements while keeping safety at the forefront, and ensuring the nation's infrastructure is resilient.

Education

Bachelor of Science, civil engineering, Texas A&M University

Professional affiliations

ITS America – Board of Directors

Intelligent Transportation Society of America Leadership Circle – Vice Chair

Southwest Research Institute – Advisory Trustees board

Lamar University Civil Engineering – Advisory Council

Center for Advancing Transportation Leadership and Safety – Advisory Board

Awards and accomplishments

John “Jake” Landen Memorial Safety Award for Lifetime Contributions – American Road & Transportation Builders Association

Federal Highway Administration Public Service Award

President’s Special Award of Merit – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

Governor Rick Perry Leadership in Transportation Award

Governor’s Executive Development Program – University of Texas, LBJ School of Public Affairs

Select media and appearances

The Bond Buyer, Oct. 30, 2018 - “Podcast - Infrastructure fallout from Trump tariffs”

Nasdaq TradeTalks, Oct. 19, 2018 - “How Self-Driving Vehicles Impact Commerce”

Bloomberg Businessweek, Sept. 28, 2018 - “The Real Pain From Trump’s Tariffs Trickles Down to Consumers”

ASCENews, Sept. 20, 2018 - “Tariffs Call for Innovation Where Least Expected”

Engineering, Inc., September/October 2018 - “Highways and Roads Sector Continues Growth Despite Funding Challenges”

American City & County, July 2, 2018 - “Investing in transportation will move America forward”

To schedule an interview with John Barton and for more information, contact:

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