

[**ITS** the Answer](#)

What would you say if told that the current issues facing our economy, employment opportunities, energy use, the environment, national infrastructure and national security are interrelated problems that can be solved with an achievable simultaneous solution? While this may seem initially to be far-fetched, in fact, **ITS** the answer and **ITS** far-reaching.



[What is **ITS** ?](#)

ITS is JEL's vision for a comprehensive national **Intermodal Transportation System (ITS)** which builds upon the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways (the U.S. Interstate Highway System) which will result in a comprehensive mass transportation system servicing all Americans throughout the U.S. from the smallest village to the largest metropolis.

[How would **ITS** work?](#)

ITS will address the major problems related to energy use including our dependence on foreign oil, employment, our environment, transportation, and the entire US economy.

ITS will build upon and take to the next level the U.S Interstate Highway System by adding approximately 45,000 miles of dual passenger rail for electric trains without vehicular crossings in the space reserved for added expansion and functionality. This space is the median strip, which by design is the area between the two sets of pavement. The median area is JEL's vision of being the optimal right of way for an efficient dual passenger rail system. **ITS** will include a significant amount of interurban feeder rail to interconnect the current interstate highway system.

As all forms of energy, such as solar, wind, geothermal, coal, oil, gas among others, can be converted to electricity, Americans can ultimately achieve independence from foreign oil. Converting this energy to electricity will be done right here in America, thus creating jobs for Americans. Moreover, generating the electricity along the **ITS** grid maximizes efficiency and reduces transmission losses.

[How does **ITS** build upon the current Interstate Highway System?](#)

In 1955, then President Eisenhower, who was the Supreme Allied Commander in WWII, announced that he was resolved to fund the concept of an interstate highway system which had been on the drawing board since the early 1930s. It was the Great Depression and WWII which delayed the implementation of this plan.

The initial legislation to fund this plan was enacted in 1956 and amended and expanded in 1958 providing for a pay-as-you-go system with initial funding from the U.S. government. A tax on gasoline and diesel fuel then paid for subsequent construction and maintenance to the system. It took until 1991, approximately 36 years, for construction to be complete.

This construction project yielded good-paying jobs for Americans throughout the U.S. for 36 years with 1.5 trillion dollars (not adjusted for inflation, actual dollars spent) raised through fuel taxes and spent in building and maintenance of the interstate highway system.

The 1958 legislation also provided for loans to states to build secondary roads to feed and connect with the interstate highway system.

JEL proposes similar federal loans to the states to build secondary passenger rails systems to connect with this interstate and defense system. Interconnecting intermodal hubs, also known as train stations, will be built by private industry. Shuttle services, taxi cabs, vans and buses can provide **ITS** to less populated areas.

[How will **ITS** create jobs and strengthen national security?](#)

ITS will create an industry unto itself while lifting up our current industries providing a safe, secure, stable and strong future for all Americans with endless employment opportunities. **ITS** presents exciting opportunities for American ingenuity and innovation. For example, the automotive industry can regain strength in creating electric train cars, and more fuel efficient cars, trucks and taxis. These jobs will not be outsourced and will be performed in America by American workers.

ITS will bring back substantial steel production capacity to the United States resulting in jobs, steel and strengthened national security. Control of a significant portion our own energy and steel production is crucial to national security.

ITS will create jobs in other sectors as well, including construction, energy, Information Technology (IT), the trades and hospitality industries. The new industry **ITS** will create will more than compensate for the job loss that has occurred due to globalization.

[How will **ITS** stabilize fuel prices?](#)

ITS will reduce our nation's total energy use per capita for transportation, thus stabilizing and eventually reducing the cost of oil for energy use to affordable prices. This will have a positive impact not only for those driving cars and trucks but also for cooking and home heating with gas and/or oil.

[Can **ITS** provide for mass evacuation in times of emergency?](#)

Absolutely. In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it is clear that our government and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were not adequately prepared to rapidly evacuate large numbers of inhabitants from coastal regions. **ITS** can provide continuous emergency evacuation for these and other types of disasters.

Historically, FEMA has had neither the adequate authority nor funding to handle a major disaster. Supplementing the United States' infrastructure with dual passenger rail that can evacuate large numbers of people in an orderly and timely fashion will aid FEMA in carrying out its duties.

Currently hurricane movements are tracked and generally there are several days notice of whether they will reach land and if so, where they will land. Hurricanes are the most predictable type of major disaster facing the United States in number per season, in impact and known location. There is no current technology to prevent them from landing, thus this is an on-going problem, only made worse by changes in atmospheric conditions secondary to global warming. In particular, hurricane development occurs over oceanic waters where the surface temperature meets or exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit; thus warming in our atmosphere will make hurricanes more severe and more frequent. Any stabilization or reversal of this warming trend will diminish the severity and frequency of such storm activity. Therefore, it is all the more important that the problem of global warming be addressed and that appropriate emergency measures be put in place now as clearly global warming will not be reversed overnight.

Other types of major disasters which may occur in the United States for which we need to be better prepared include evacuation of areas with the potential for flooding, earthquakes and volcanic activity. Moreover, in the event of biological warfare, it might be necessary to evacuate large metropolitan areas.

Our national infrastructure including of all modes of transportation, utilities and communication also must be maintained to prevent a man-made disaster from occurring. Our national infrastructures are in many cases not well maintained and this will be high on JEL's agenda in his first term.

[Will the implementation of **ITS** require me to give up my car or truck?](#)

No, but you may find that you and your family will require fewer vehicles and enjoy the many advantages and benefits that **ITS** has to offer. Currently, there is approximately one vehicular registration, of a car or truck, per U.S. citizen of all ages. With the implementation of **ITS**, traffic congestion and the incidence of road rage can be reduced for those who need to travel the highway. Other benefits include a reduced number of vehicles to maintain and insure.

[Can **ITS** address healthcare too?](#)

Yes, **ITS** can address certain aspects of healthcare. By providing good jobs, the future of Medicare can be more assured as Medicare is funded through employment taxes. Moreover, **ITS** can provide reliable transportation to specialty medical centers from the smallest village to the largest metropolis.

[How will **ITS** be funded?](#)

The initial funding will be analogous to that of the Eisenhower system. Additional funding will come from various sources. Ticket sales will be a primary source of funding and will cover the energy use as well as the construction and maintenance of the system. Thousands of intermodal transportation hubs, i.e., train stations, will be built by private industry and restaurants, hotels, shops, entertainment and vacation facilities along with other businesses will spring up around the train stations, providing good jobs which cannot be outsourced.

To put the potential construction costs of **ITS** in perspective, the amount of money spent on the war in Iraq is essentially equal to the construction cost of the Eisenhower Interstate and Defense Highways. We must bear in mind that whatever the ultimate cost of **ITS** should be, the reduction in energy use in transportation in the United States, the stabilization of global oil prices, and the positive impact on the gross domestic product (GDP), employment, our ecosphere and national security, mandates that **ITS** be constructed as soon as possible.

The cost of the war has also been in lives and misery, where the benefits of **ITS** lie in jobs and prosperity, security, strength and the stability of America's future.

[Will a self-funding system work?](#)

Yes, and there is historical precedence for this. The current Interstate and Defense Highways were primarily self-funded through 1.5 trillion dollars raised in gas taxes, which means that the people driving vehicles and using the highways have paid for approximately 90% of the construction and maintenance costs. Approximately 10% of the cost came from government funding to initiate the project.

JEL's Vision will give a new meaning to **ITS** made in America!

Will **ITS** benefit all Americans?

Yes. **ITS** is a win-win for all Americans. The success of **ITS** does not depend upon partisanship, leaving people out, but rather on inclusiveness, drawing all Americans together.

ITS Exciting and **ITS** Time to secure America's future!
Let's get America back on track. All Aboard!

If **ITS** important to you, please spread the word and contribute today to let your voice be heard!

www.lundeen2008.com/contribute