



Commercial Explosives: Transportation & Infrastructure

Commercial explosives are foundational to America's infrastructure. They enable highway construction, tunnel excavation, rail development, port dredging, and energy corridor expansion. They are both tools of construction and critical cargo that depends on the transportation networks they help build.

Explosives Build America



Roads

- Commercial explosives are critical to **road construction** and the development of the interstate system. They are used both to extract aggregates for pavement and to prepare roadbeds, the foundational layer beneath highways.
- A **reliable highway system is essential** for transporting commercial explosives. Well-maintained roads improve safety and security and help ensure efficient, timely delivery of our products to our customers.



Ports

- Commercial explosives are essential to the construction and expansion of **port infrastructure**, including dredging activities to maintain navigable waterways and accommodate larger vessels.
- However, port capacity for accepting high explosives and ammonium nitrate (AN) is severely constrained, creating ongoing supply chain challenges.



Rail

- Commercial explosives enable **rail construction** by overcoming challenging terrain, including blasting through rock formations and tunneling in mountainous regions or under waterways.
- Rail is also used to transport commercial explosives across the U.S.

IME's Asks for Congress

- **Pass a robust, multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill** to provide long-term funding certainty and infrastructure planning.
- **Sustain and strengthen federal infrastructure investment and** advance long-term solutions for Highway Trust Fund solvency.
- **Enhance supply chain resilience** across all transportation modes to ensure timely project delivery and material availability. Encourage the U.S. Coast Guard to adopt the use of IMESA FR to permit high explosives to be brought into U.S. ports.
- **Ensure rail infrastructure remains accessible**, reliable, and efficient for the transportation of commercial explosive across the supply chain.
- **Reform permitting processes** to reduce unnecessary delays while maintaining strong environmental and safety standards.

Key Statistics:

- ✓ 1.5 billion metric tons of aggregates used across the interstate system rely on blasting¹
- ✓ 38,000 tons of aggregates required for a single mile of highway construction
- ✓ Limited port capacity creates supply chain challenges

[1] <https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3127/2006-3127.pdf>