

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:01:19 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Backlash; Sec. Duffy's Road Trip Series]

MICHAEL STRAHAN: As gas prices soar —

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION SEAN DUFFY: Put your seatbelts on!

STRAHAN: — backlash this morning over Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy's series being called *The Great American Road Trip*.

(...)

7:11:10 a.m.

2 minutes and 5 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Sean Duffy Faces Backlash Over New Reality Show]

ROBIN ROBERTS: As gas prices soar, backlash this morning over Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy's series being called *The Great American Road Trip*. Jay O'Brien has that story for us. Good morning to you, Jay.

JAY O'BRIEN: Robin good morning to you. The secretary says the purpose of this reality series was to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. But this morning, it's facing criticism as out of touch. This morning, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy defending his seven-month side project.

DUFFY: Put your seatbelts on.

O'BRIEN: The one time the *Real World* star is returning to reality TV in a five-part series called *The Great American Road Trip*, following Duffy, his wife, Fox News anchor Rachel Campos-Duffy, and their children traveling to iconic American places. President Trump featured in the first moments of the newly released trailer.

DUFFY: So, the motto is to love America is to see America.

O'BRIEN: At a time when gas prices are skyrocketing and the average cost of a gallon of gas exceeding four dollars amid the war in Iran, Duffy's critics calling the series tone deaf. Former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg slamming his successor, saying, "I love a good road trip, but this is brutally out of touch: a Trump cabinet member making a documentary about himself while regular families can't afford road trips anymore because Trump and his war put gas prices through the roof." Duffy, who shot the series over seven months with his family in tow,

responding to critics claiming “zero taxpayer dollars were spent” on his family to participate, adding, “The series was filmed in short, one to two day production windows — such as weekends and the kids spring break.” In the works since last year, Duffy says ethics and budget officials from DOT reviewed and approved his participation in accordance with federal rules. On its website, The Great American Road Trip, Inc. lists sponsors including Boeing and United airlines, companies Duffy is in charge of regulating. As you heard there, this project was funded through a nonprofit. It’s called The Great American Road Trip, Inc. It says it’s partnering with the Transportation Department on this. The family isn’t being paid to participate, the secretary’s wife says, and they did it to celebrate the country’s 250th anniversary, Michael.

STRAHAN: Alright, if they say so, Jay. All right. Thank you.