

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

As Members of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) representing the state departments of transportation (state DOTs) of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, we urge you to continue our nation's commitment to improving transportation safety by reserving the 5.9 GHz wireless spectrum for this critical purpose. The top priority for the state DOTs and AASHTO has been—and will always remain—the safety of all transportation system users. The loss of 36,750 lives last year on our nation's highways and streets demands that we act boldly. To this end, connected vehicles (CV) utilizing Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) communication in the 5.9 GHz spectrum will save lives by creating a seamless, cooperative environment that significantly improves the safety of our transportation system.

As infrastructure owners and operators of the nation's surface transportation infrastructure, state and local transportation agencies are at the core of creating the optimal CV environment. While automakers and device manufacturers will dictate availability of vehicular equipment, transportation agencies will control the deployment and operation of roadside infrastructure and the incorporation of CV technologies into infrastructure applications. Together, the public and private sectors have already invested hundreds of millions of dollars to develop and deploy lifesaving CV technologies in the 5.9 GHz spectrum.

State DOTs fully recognize that there is no current agreement among the transportation industry on which particular technology will be used to broadly deploy V2X applications. That being said, the current debate among stakeholders in the transportation industry on how best to use the 5.9 GHz spectrum should not be an excuse to open the spectrum for non-transportation safety purposes; rather, by preserving the spectrum, it will facilitate the transportation industry to agree on the best technology solution to broadly deploy V2X applications.

In closing, state DOTs understand that a CV environment holds the potential to support a fundamental advancement in ensuring the safety of our nation's surface transportation system. And in order for this promising future to become a reality, the 5.9 GHz spectrum must be preserved for transportation safety purposes.

If you would like to discuss the issues raised in this letter, please contact Joung Lee, AASHTO's Policy Director, at 202-624-5818 or jlee@ashto.org.

Sincerely,
cc:



Carlos Braceras
President, AASHTO
Executive Director, Utah Department of Transportation



Jim Tymon
Executive Director
AASHTO



John R. Cooper
Transportation Director
Alabama Department of Transportation



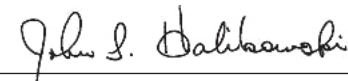
Shoshana Lew
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Transportation



John MacKinnon
Comissioner
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



Joseph Giuliatti
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Transportation



John S. Halikowski
Director
Arizona Department of Transportation



Jennifer Lynn Cohan
Secretary of Transportation
Delaware Department of Transportation



Scott Bennett
Director
Arkansas Department of Transportation



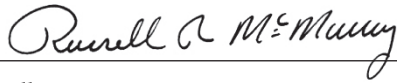
Jeff Marootian
Director
District of Columbia Department of Transportation



Bob Franzoia
Acting Director
California Department of Transportation



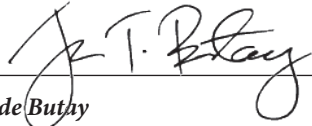
Kevin J. Thibault
Secretary of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation



Russell R. McMurry
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Transportation



Shawn D. Wilson
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development



Jade Butay
Director
Hawaii Department of Transportation



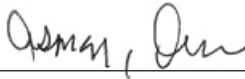
Bruce A. Van Note
Commissioner
Maine Department of Transportation



Brian W. Ness
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Idaho Transportation Department



Pete Rahn
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation



Omer Osman
Acting Secretary
Illinois Department of Transportation



Stephanie Pollack
Secretary
Massachusetts Department of Transportation



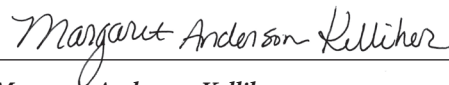
Joe McGuinness
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation



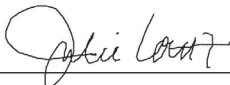
Paul C. Ajegba
Director
Michigan Department of Transportation



Mark Lowe
Director
Iowa Department of Transportation




Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation



Julie Lorenz
Secretary of Transportation
Kansas Department of Transportation



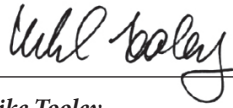
Melinda McGrath
Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Transportation



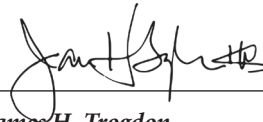
Greg Thomas
Secretary
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet



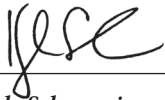
Patrick K. McKenna
Director
Missouri Department of Transportation



Mike Tooley
Director
Montana Department of Transportation



James H. Trogon
Secretary of Transportation
North Carolina Department of Transportation



Kyle Schneweis
Director
Nebraska Department of Transportation



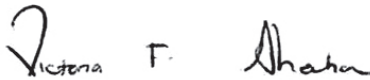
Ron Henke
Interim Director
North Dakota Department of Transportation



Kristina Swallow
Director
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Jack Marchbanks
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Ohio Department of Transportation



Victoria Frances Sheehan
Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Transportation



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Oklahoma Department of Transportation



Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
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New Jersey Department of Transportation



Paul R. Mather
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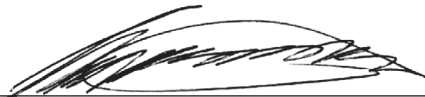
Michael Sandoval
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Department of Transportation



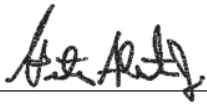
Leslie Richards
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation



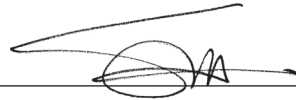
Marie Therese Dominguez
Commissioner
New York State Department of Transportation



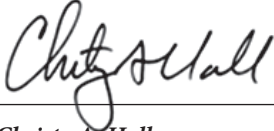
Carlos Maximino Contreras
Secretary
Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works



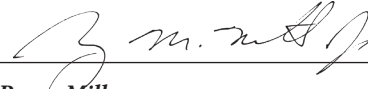
Peter Alviti
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Shannon Valentine
Secretary of Transportation
Virginia Department of Transportation



Christy A. Hall
Secretary of Transportation
South Carolina Department of Transportation



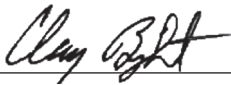
Roger Millar
Secretary of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation



Darin Bergquist
Secretary
South Dakota Department of Transportation



Jimmy D. Wriston
Acting Commissioner
West Virginia Department of Transportation



Clay Bright
Commissioner
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Craig Thompson
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cc:

The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner