December 16, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable David E. Price, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Subject: Ensure strong highway and transit funding in full-year FY 2020 appropriations package

Dear Congressional Leaders:

Representing all 50 state departments of transportation (state DOTs), the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) writes to first express our utmost appreciation for repealing Section 1438 of the FAST Act in the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019, without which $7.6 billion in unobligated Federal-aid highway program contract authority would be rescinded on July 1, 2020.

As the House and Senate finalize the full-year FY 2020 appropriations packages this week, we urge you to provide as much supplemental general fund revenue as possible to support the Federal-aid highway and transit formula grants programs. Over the last two fiscal years, Congress has demonstrated a firm commitment to further address this nation’s growing infrastructure needs.
We remain grateful for this previous support and we again ask that you, at a minimum, maintain the upper levels of general fund support from these last two fiscal years by providing the Federal-aid highway formula program with $3.25 billion above the FAST Act funding levels, along with $834 million for transit formula grants. Providing these additional federal funds will ensure a predictable, equitable, and nationwide distribution of critical federal transportation infrastructure dollars.

Thank you for providing record-high levels of transportation appropriations in the recent years, and we ask that you continue Congress’s focus on transportation infrastructure investments with a proven record as reflected by the formula highway and transit programs.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact Joung Lee, AASHTO’s Policy Director at 202-624-5818 or jlee@aashto.org.

Sincerely,

Jim Tymon
Executive Director
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials