



April 9, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

Like the rest of our society, the ability to support the nation's highway and bridge improvement activities has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While your attention is needed to aid states so they can maintain this vital public sector responsibility, you also have a unique opportunity to increase federal transportation investment to help restart the economy once the immediate situation has stabilized.

Most governors have deemed transportation construction an essential activity during this national emergency. The continuity of state highway improvement programs, however, is in jeopardy due to declining motor fuel tax revenue. This drop-off mirrors the plight of the airline and transit sectors, which have already received federal aid to help them weather the current crisis. Similar remedial action is now needed to prevent reductions in planned highway construction activity that would reverberate throughout the economy. The American Road & Transportation Builders Association supports the recommendation of state departments of transportation for a \$50 billion infusion to stabilize state transportation improvement activities.

However, this one-time backstop is about preservation, not growth. By contrast, a multi-year reauthorization of the federal highway and public transportation programs completed well before the September 30 expiration and with significant investment increases would help facilitate the immediate job creation the nation desperately needs.

The following are parameters necessary to achieve that goal:

- Investment increases sufficient to improve infrastructure conditions and enhance productivity;
- Five-year, at least, duration to leverage expansion-oriented state and private sector plans; and
- Minimal to no implementation process to ensure rapid delivery of projects and benefits.

Thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

David C. Bauer
President & CEO