



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

Telephone 217/782-6149

April 20, 2020

Dear Illinois Congressional Delegation:

I am writing to follow up on the request made by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) on April 6, 2020. A copy of the request is attached.

I would first like to offer a sincere thank you for Congress' ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your monumental efforts have provided critical relief for transit, aviation and passenger rail. However, as states continue to take necessary precautions of social distancing and sheltering in place the need for additional economic relief and stimulus has grown.

Average daily traffic counts are down by nearly fifty percent throughout Illinois and we anticipate a reduction in all transportation revenues of at least thirty percent over the next 18 months. This calculates to a loss of \$2.8 billion. A revenue loss of this magnitude will severely impact both state and local transportation operations and construction, including Governor Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois capital program. At a time with record spikes in unemployment, hindering a \$33 billion dollar infrastructure program that will support tens of thousands of jobs would be devastating for Illinois and the region.

These concerns are not unique to Illinois. State departments of transportation all across the country are facing similar issues. On behalf of IDOT, forty-nine state departments of transportation (state DOTs), the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, we ask Congress to consider two important actions related to surface transportation infrastructure in subsequent COVID-19 legislation.

Most urgently, we request an immediate \$49.95 billion in flexible federal funding. This relief would be used to offset a portion of the current and estimated losses of state transportation revenues. These funds would help ensure that IDOT and state DOTs throughout the country can operate and maintain our vital transportation systems and allow current projects and plans to continue. Second, to catalyze a multi-year economic recovery, Congress should consider a major transportation investment package in the form of a long-term surface and water transportation reauthorization.

These actions will bolster our nation's highway, transit, passenger rail and water transportation systems. This will send a strong message to citizens and businesses across the country that Congress is doing everything they can to

boost confidence and expectations for a robust economic recovery, while strengthening our national transportation system now and for the future.

Thank you again for your leadership and support during this unprecedented crisis, and for your consideration of this request in additional COVID-19-related legislation. If you have any questions please contact Deputy Secretary Doug House at 217/720-7011 or at doug.house@illinois.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Osman, Omer".

Omer Osman
Secretary

Enclosure

