

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

May 22, 2020

Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

We are writing to follow up on the request made by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) on April 6, 2020, to provide \$49.95 billion as an immediate revenue backstop for state Departments of Transportation in Phase 4 of COVID-19 response. Currently, the U.S. House of Representatives-passed HEROES Act provides \$15 billion of AASHTO's request for highways, streets and roads through the Federal Highway Administration, and I am hopeful the remaining \$34.95 billion will be provided as this legislation moves through conference with the U.S. Senate.


This crucial action will prevent major disruptions in state Transportation Departments' collective ability to operate and maintain our Nation's multimodal transportation system during this unprecedented emergency. It will also prevent cancellations and delays of projects as well as potential job losses both in the state DOT workforce and the private sector around the country. Our multimodal transportation system provides the critical service of carrying essential workers and goods to support pandemic response in all our communities and plays a key role in ensuring a strong recovery.

Compared to \$111 billion in state transportation revenues in FY 2019, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers (State Expenditure Report PDF Page 123), preliminary projections from AASHTO show an estimated 30 percent decline on average for the next 18 months. In addition, data from INRIX shows that personal travel dropped 47 percent nationally through the week ending April 3, 2020. Travel for the entire month of April in California continued to be significantly lower than expected for this time of year compared to last year (a 36 percent decrease between 2019 and 2020) which will negatively impact gas tax revenues.

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Thank you for your bold leadership during this unprecedented crisis and for your consideration of support for the comprehensive AASHTO request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toks Omishakin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "O".

TOKS OMISHAKIN
Director