

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit,
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit,
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Daniel Lipinski, Chair, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous
Materials, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Rick Crawford, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and
Hazardous Materials, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chair DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves,
Chair Norton, Ranking Member Davis, Chair Lipinski, and Ranking Member Crawford:

As the organization 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 express our disappointment that the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act passed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee on June 18 unnecessarily turns back the clock on so many bipartisan surface transportation reforms previously agreed to by Congress.

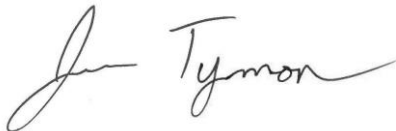
We appreciate that the T&I Committee and the House leadership recognizes the need to reauthorize the surface transportation programs before the end of this fiscal year by including the INVEST in America Act in the larger Move Forward Act infrastructure package. However, the surface transportation provisions in this legislation significantly increase administrative burdens on state DOTs making it more difficult to operate and maintain the transportation network that serves as the backbone of the United States economy.

The Surface Transportation Advanced through Reform, Technology, & Efficient Review (STARTER) Act, introduced by T&I Committee Ranking Member Sam Graves, clearly recognizes AASHTO's core policy principles and our call for an increase and prioritization of formula-based federal funding provided to states and for increased flexibility, reduced program burdens, and improved delivery of projects. Unfortunately, these critical principles are absent in the Move Forward Act.

Transportation remains one of the rare areas of broad bipartisan support in today's political climate. We urge both sides of the political aisle to work together to get this much-needed surface transportation bill over the finish line. We believe it is possible to find bipartisan consensus on diverse issues such as addressing climate change and resiliency, maintaining the flexibility and maximizing the funding of current core formula programs, improving project delivery, focusing on bridge investments, and meeting the infrastructure needs of rural and urban areas.

We firmly believe the best policy outcomes for the public, that we all serve, arise when both parties come together to find the right blend of forward-thinking and common-sense solutions. State DOTs are eager to assist you in every way we can towards successful enactment of the next long-term surface transportation legislation by September 30, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Tymon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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