



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CARLOS M. BRACERAS, P.E.
Executive Director

JASON E. DAVIS, P.E.
Deputy Director of Engineering and Operations

TERIANNE S. NEWELL, P.E.
Deputy Director of Planning and Investment

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Mike Lee, Senator
United States Senate
316A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitt Romney, Senator
United States Senate
124 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lee and Senator Romney:

I am writing in support of the request made by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to provide funding relief for state Departments of Transportation as part of any future COVID-19 relief legislation.

Funding already provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides much needed relief to help transit and airports mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, support is still needed to prevent major disruptions in our ability to maintain and operate the nation's highway network and prevent delays or cancellation of important highway construction projects.

Due to significant decreases in highway travel, Utah's fuel tax and motor vehicle fee revenue is expected to decline between \$60 million and \$168 million over the remainder of the current fiscal year and the next. Timely Congressional action to provide relief will ensure that Utah can proceed with planned highway construction projects, supporting jobs important to the state's economy, while ensuring we have the resources to maintain and preserve the multi-billion dollar investment in the nation's highway system.

Given the urgent nature of needs in the coming weeks and months, I request that these funds be treated as state revenues that would otherwise have been collected for a wide range of state transportation activities without the COVID-19 pandemic. This broad funding eligibility recognizes that state transportation revenues are used for any transportation activities undertaken by the Utah. Additionally, funds should allow for

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100 percent federal share in recognition that availability of normal state matching funds may be constrained.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlos M. Braceras', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carlos M. Braceras, P.E.
Executive Director

CMB/LTH/dej