

July 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Democratic Leader, United States Senate

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

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) is grateful for your continued leadership to provide stability and relief to the American people and the U.S. economy that are reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic. As Congress works to find agreement on additional legislation in response to the pandemic, AASHTO strongly urges you to include an immediate infusion of at least \$37 billion to state DOTs to ensure the delivery of planned transportation projects whose benefits will extend far beyond this pandemic and forestall further job losses in the public and private sectors.

With millions of Americans following “stay-at-home” orders, many state DOTs are facing severe losses in revenues, including dedicated user fee revenues on which state transportation programs heavily rely. Projections continue to show decreases in state motor fuel tax and toll receipts as nationwide vehicle traffic reduction bottomed out at about 50 percent during the height of the pandemic. As a result, the ability of state DOTs to carry out their core functions, including capital construction programs, is threatened. Since the beginning of the pandemic, many state DOTs have imposed furloughs and delayed or cancelled \$8.6 billion in critical transportation projects, putting at risk transportation construction jobs and the timely realization of benefits those projects bring to communities and commerce.

On April 6, 2020, we requested that Congress provide \$49.95 billion in funding for state DOTs to address estimated state transportation revenue losses over 18 months, composed of a \$16.7 billion loss in fiscal year (FY) 2020 and \$33.3 billion loss in FY 2021. This request was supported by 137 members of the House and 26 members of the Senate through “Dear Colleague” letters sent to your offices. As updated data has become available over the last three months, we now estimate state transportation revenue losses of \$37 billion over five years (through FY 2024), with an estimated loss of \$16 billion in FY 2020. This change in estimated loss is mainly due to a less severe outlook for FY 2021 from our members compared to earlier this year. That being said, the recovery period is now expected to be longer than originally anticipated.

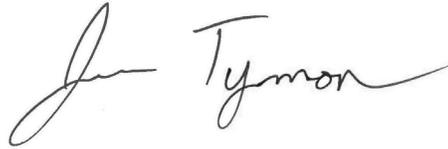
Nonetheless, the need for federal funding for state DOTs remains urgent. It will prevent further disruptions to planned transportation projects and allow state DOT employees and transportation construction workers essential to planning and delivering these projects to remain on the job. The funding will also preserve the core capabilities of state DOTs that are critical to implement a robust, bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization bill, which can serve as a platform for national economic recovery and growth.

Again, we appreciate your leadership during this unprecedented time. We urge you to provide state DOTs with an immediate infusion of federal funding in order to make critical transportation improvements and keep Americans working as our country looks to reopen stronger than ever.

Sincerely,



Patrick K. McKenna
President, AASHTO
Director, Missouri DOT



Jim Tymon
Executive Director, AASHTO