

October 5, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chair, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair, House Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
The Honorable David E. Price, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Dear Congressional Leaders:

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) strongly urges Congress to provide \$37 billion in direct federal funding to state DOTs in the pending COVID-19 relief package. This crucial federal backstop will prevent cancellations and delays of vital transportation projects as well as potential job losses both in the state DOT workforce and the private sector. And just as important, this federal funding can also jump-start much needed economic activity as the United States continues to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

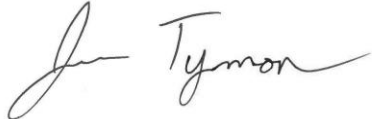
Since the beginning of the pandemic in March, state DOTs continue to face severe losses in dedicated user fee revenues including motor fuel taxes. These transportation-specific revenues are outside of a state's general fund and comprise the foundation of every statewide transportation investment program. With the prolonged erosion of state transportation revenues, the ability of state DOTs to carry out their core functions such as delivering capital and construction programs, safely operating their transportation systems, maintaining a state of good repair, and meeting payroll and administrative needs remain threatened.

Despite the enduring uncertainty and ever-evolving nature of this pandemic, the nation's state DOTs are working tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of their residents, employees, and the traveling public. But their valiant efforts alone will not be enough without this critical component of COVID-19 federal funding assistance.

AASHTO members are profoundly grateful to Congress for providing a one-year extension of the FAST Act. However, without the requested \$37 billion in additional federal funding assistance, the important surface transportation program stability provided by this extension will be jeopardized.

Thank you for your consideration of \$37 billion in direct state DOT aid in the next COVID-19 legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Joung Lee, AASHTO's Director of Policy and Government Relations, at 202-425-0969 or jlee@aaashto.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Tymon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

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