

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chair  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

The undersigned organizations applaud your leadership on reauthorizing our Nation's surface transportation and infrastructure programs. A world-class infrastructure system is not only critical to ensuring America's safety, mobility, quality of life, and global competitiveness, but will help create and support millions of well-paying jobs.

As the Committee crafts this important legislation, we urge you to address four primary challenges:

- **Improving Safety and Reliability of Our Nation's Infrastructure. American travelers, workers, and businesses rely on a reliable and safe and reliable transportation system .** We urge the Committee to e-affirm the Department of Transportation's commitment to safety as its highest priority. Further smart federal investments can support that goal while ensuring reliable infrastructure for the next 50 years. The Department, States, and local governments must therefore have the tools and resources to plan investments and deliver infrastructure that anticipates trade and travel shifts, and responds effectively to events like the Francis Scott Key Bridge incident or weather-related events like coastal erosion.
- **Maintaining Sufficient Funding Levels.** A world-class infrastructure system is critical to moving people and goods safely and efficiently. Underinvestment in our nation's infrastructure led to deferred maintenance of and investments in roads, bridges, transit systems, ports, railroads, and other projects critical to our nation's competitiveness and the mobility of millions of Americans. More recently, though, the American Society of Civil Engineers' "Report Card for America's Infrastructure" have shown two consecutive years of improvement. We urge you, therefore, to maintain necessary funding levels that build on the investments of the previous reauthorization.
- **Modernizing the Permitting Process.** Today, one of the biggest obstacles to building infrastructure is the broken permitting process. There is enormous

demand to improve our nation's roads, bridges, transit systems, ports, and railroads but the current rules and processes are frequently unwieldy and inconsistent across the federal government that frequently add seven or more years to review timelines, not counting litigation that may arise. Congress must make meaningful improvements to the federal permitting process to provide greater predictability, efficiency, and transparency and create certainty for the States, engineers, construction firms, and workers who bring these investments to our communities.

- **Fixing the User Fee.** Congress must take bold action to restore the “user fee” as the primary, sustainable funding source for highway and transit projects. These critical projects are increasingly reliant on general fund transfers, despite Congress historically using revenues generated from user fees like the gas tax, which hasn't been raised since 1993. This reliance is not only unsustainable, but it directly adds to the national debt and deficit. Further, the current user fees, including the gas tax, must be modernized to reflect the realities of rising construction costs, the improving fuel efficiency of gasoline-powered vehicles, and the growing share of electric vehicles traveling on our roads. We support new and equitable ways to ensure that all users contribute meaningfully to maintaining and improving our nation's roads, bridges, and transit systems.

We look forward to working with you and your Committee as you advance a new surface transportation and infrastructure bill by September 30, 2026. Your leadership will help support our nation's workers, travelers, and businesses, while addressing long-term challenges.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Airports Council International - North America  
Alliance for Chemical Distribution  
American Association of Port Authorities  
American Concrete Pavement Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Highway Users Alliance  
American Public Transportation Association  
American Road and Transportation Builders Association  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Trucking Associations  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Business Roundtable  
Intermodal Association of North America  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
Laborers International Union of North America  
National Association of Waterfront Employers  
National Industrial Transportation League  
National League of Cities  
National Lime Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
Portland Cement Association  
Transportation Intermediaries Association  
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Travel Association  
United for Infrastructure

cc: Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure