



May 1, 2020

To the Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Highway Construction Industry, we appreciate your continued efforts to address the unprecedented impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the American people and the U.S. and Pennsylvania economies.

We join together in writing to you today to respectfully urge you to provide state departments of transportation (DOTs), with at least a \$50 billion infusion of federal funding to ensure improvements to the nation's transportation infrastructure move forward and mitigate potential job losses in the transportation construction industry. This infusion of federal funding should be complemented with a bipartisan, robust reauthorization of the federal surface transportation programs.

Upon stabilizing the federal highway program in the short term, we would specifically call for the enactment of a timely and full-bodied reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs, before the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act expires on September 30, 2020. Doing so will lead to long-term economic growth for our state and nation. Taking both these actions are crucial as our industry looks to rebuild Pennsylvania's highways and recover from the economic hardship that occurred over the past few months.

The continuity of state highway improvement programs is in jeopardy due to declining motor fuel tax revenue. The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) estimates states will lose an average of 30-percent of state generated revenues. Some states are already realizing impacts as high as 50-percent of state fuel tax revenue reductions. This loss will disrupt billions of dollars in current transportation projects across the nation and will severely impact Pennsylvania, as the state's highway construction program is almost exclusively funded by federal and state fuel taxes. Local governments will also suffer similar losses, further exacerbating and

delaying delivery of projects to improve public safety and repair and replace aging infrastructure.

Congress has already enacted several measures to assist in the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is the time to enact legislation to stabilize the nation's infrastructure program and then immediately work at reauthorizing the Federal surface transportation program. Taking these measures now would create and sustain thousands of Pennsylvania jobs, and generate millions of dollars in tax revenue, while the capital assets constructed would yield economic activity for generations to come. We urge you to facilitate the passage of a surface transportation reauthorization bill as part of any COVID-19 recovery measure to help Pennsylvanians, and Americans, overcome impending economic decline. For Pennsylvania and America to successfully compete economically on the world stage, we need a highly functioning and well-maintained highway network.

Respectfully,

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CC: Tom Wolf, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Yassmin Gramian, Secretary, PA Department of Transportation