

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leaders McCarthy and McConnell:

Thank you for your continued commitment to investing in America's infrastructure. Recently, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) released their policy and funding recommendations for an infrastructure package and surface transportation reauthorization. They highlight the \$756 billion highway and bridge investment backlog that our country currently faces. **We urge you to support AASHTO's request to authorize \$200 billion in highway and bridge stimulus in 2022 to be obligated through 2026 and drive down this unacceptable backlog.** We call on Congress to provide the necessary funding and flexibility to states and local communities to make this critical investment in America's roadways for all of its people.

The past year has proven why we must continue to invest in our nation's roads and bridges. Americans were able to buy groceries and doctors able to receive essential medical supplies thanks to truck drivers, and motorcoach drivers were able to move critical health care workers to COVID "hot spots" around the country to support relief efforts, all on our nation's roadways. Commerce continued, first responders arrived at work, and critical services continued when much of the country was paralyzed all due to our roads. As we speak, these roadways are helping facilitate the mass distribution of vaccines to communities throughout the country. America will overcome this pandemic, in part, because of past investment in our nation's roadway system.

In addition to the pandemic, our nation has faced several years of active hurricane and wildfire seasons. These natural disasters forced mass evacuations by bus and other means in many parts of the country, disproportionately affecting people of color and low-income individuals who are more likely to live in areas vulnerable to climate change impacts. Our first responders bravely stepped forward and responded to these disasters because of the access our nation's roadway system provides.

We want to partner with you to build upon this roadway system and ensure that all Americans, regardless of socioeconomic status, have the connectivity they need to flourish in their communities. However, states and local governments need flexibility to serve the varying transportation needs of those communities. The transportation inequities faced by citizens living in urban areas are not the same as those living in rural parts of the country. **One-size -fits-all mandates on state and local communities limiting their ability to construct new highway capacity could stymie efforts to better connect disadvantaged communities and Tribes to jobs, healthcare facilities, and schools, or to better link businesses in those communities to their markets.**

The events of the past year highlight the proven value of investment in America's roadways. The nation's highway system continues to be central to our broader transportation system, our safety and security, and serves as the backbone of our entire economy. We recognize the need to reassess the federal infrastructure priorities and support continued investment in transit and other modes of transportation. However, it is crucial to provide states and local communities with needed funding and flexibility on how to appropriately

invest in our essential roads and bridges. We look forward to partnering with you to provide this much needed highway and bridge investment.

Sincerely,

American Highway Users Alliance  
Associated General Contractors of America  
AAA  
AGC Arkansas  
AGC Florida East Coast Chapter  
AGC Iowa  
AGC Maine  
AGC of Minnesota  
AGC of Nebraska  
AGC of Nevada  
AGC of New York State  
AGC of North Dakota  
AGC of Oregon AGC of San Diego  
AGC of South Dakota, Highway-Heavy-Utilities Chapter  
AGC of Texas  
AGC of Vermont  
AGC of Wyoming  
Alabama AGC  
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
American Bus Association  
American Concrete Pavement Association  
American Concrete Pavement Association Pennsylvania Chapter  
American Concrete Pipe Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies of Arizona  
American Institute of Steel Construction  
American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI)  
American Road & Transportation Builders Association  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Traffic Safety Services Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association  
Arizona Chapter AGC  
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation  
Arizona Highway Users  
Arizona Professional Towing & Recovery Association  
Arizona Rural Transportation Advocacy Council  
Arizona Society of Professional Engineers  
Asphalt Institute, Inc.  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Auto Care Association  
Carolinas AGC  
Colorado Contractors Association  
Concrete and Aggregates Association of Louisiana  
Concrete Paving Association of Minnesota  
Consumer Energy Alliance  
Design-Build Institute of America

FP<sup>2</sup> (Foundation for Pavement Preservation)  
Freedom to Drive Coalition  
Idaho AGC  
Indiana Chapter American Concrete Pavement Association  
Indiana Constructors, Inc.  
Institute of Makers of Explosives  
Kentucky Concrete Association  
Louisiana AGC  
Maryland Asphalt Association  
Michigan Concrete Association  
MO/KS Chapter, American Concrete Pavement Association  
Montana Contractors Association  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association  
National Steel Bridge Alliance  
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association  
NATSO, representing truckstops and travel plazas  
Nebraska Concrete Paving Association  
North Dakota Concrete Council  
Ohio Concrete  
Ohio Contractors Association  
Oklahoma/Arkansas Chapter of American Concrete Pavement Association  
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association  
Portland Cement Association  
South Dakota Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association  
South Dakota Highway Users Conference  
Southeast Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA-SE)  
Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association  
Tire Industry Association (TIA)  
Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)  
United Motorcoach Association  
Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association

Cc: Chairman Tom Carper  
Chairman Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member Shelley Capito  
Ranking Member Sam Graves