September 27, 2017

The Honorable Bill Shuster  The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman  Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio,

Members of the North American Concrete Alliance (NACA) are encouraged that the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is continuing its commitment to examining and addressing the challenges facing America’s infrastructure.

NACA is a coalition of concrete-related associations dedicated to addressing industry-wide priorities in the areas of research, education and government affairs. NACA places an emphasis on advocating for increased and efficient federal investment in surface transportation and infrastructure funding. As the Committee moves forward on implementing policies to improve the nation’s infrastructure and surface transportation networks we encourage you think boldly and look towards the future.

In particular, NACA is concerned that the investment in our surface transportation infrastructure is painfully inadequate to meet our current needs, let alone the needs of future generations. We believe that previous efforts fell short and as a result, the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) is still not adequately funded and Congress is no closer to enacting a permanent, or even long-lasting, solution to address its solvency.

We cannot squander the investments previous generations made by allowing our infrastructure to crumble and collapse. We understand that in our current era of fiscal constraint investment dollars are being squeezed from many directions. But in our view, it is fiscally irresponsible not to increase investments that anticipate future needs, expand capacity, and establish a surface transportation network that will truly increase our global competitiveness.

When your Congressional predecessors undertook the building of the interstate highway system they embodied the spirit of taking risks and truly investing in the program. They knew that the approach could be painful and would cost money, but in the end they had built a transportation network that has stood for generations and in turn allowed our nation and economy to become stronger.

By making tough decisions now, you can pave the way for America to move forward into the next generation of commerce and travel. Now is the time to make the investments that help ease the congestion and capacity issues that plague our surface transportation network, while simultaneously
building highways for the future that can accommodate current and future trends, including autonomous vehicles, business and distribution corridors, and enhanced access for e-commerce.

NACA looks forward to working with you to address our nation’s infrastructure needs now and in the future.

Sincerely,

American Concrete Pavement Association                           National Concrete Masonry Association
American Concrete Pipe Association                                National Precast Concrete Association
American Concrete Pumping Association                            Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association                      Portland Cement Association
Concrete Foundations Association                                National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute                            Tilt Up Concrete Association