



August 25, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the American Highway Users Alliance (Highway Users), a coalition of 300 organizations including companies, trade associations, safety advocacy groups, and motoring clubs that represent millions of motorists and serve as the united voice of the motoring public, we applaud the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for moving forward with the transportation reauthorization process through their efforts on their respective bills this Congress. As you are aware, the deadline to reauthorize surface transportation programs is quickly approaching.

Due to the limited days remaining in the legislative calendar, the Highway Users **urges Congress to pass a one-year extension of current surface transportation law with increased highway investment funding** to ensure important road and bridge projects can continue into the new fiscal year and prevent further disruption to America's economic recovery.

The Highway Users supports a one-year extension to ensure roadway users can benefit from the roadway projects and safety improvements resulting from a seamlessly continued construction season that allows Americans to get to work and our goods and services to arrive efficiently. Additionally, Congress should increase investment in the highway program through this extension, in line with the planned increases in funding both the Senate and House were pursuing through their respective transportation reauthorization bills. Increasing highway and bridge funding would help address the \$786.4 billion backlog of highway and bridge investments, identified by the U.S. Department of Transportation in its *Conditions and Performance Report on Highways, Bridges and Transit* published last fall. The Highway Users also supports making the highway funding available at 100% federal cost share during FY 2021 (and even FY 2020) due to the dire situation the entire nation faces. Regular share rules can be reinstated beginning in FY 2022.

In supporting a one-year extension we emphasize that we remain strongly committed to prompt action to pass a multi-year highway and surface transportation reauthorization bill, including fully funding the authorized spending levels. If, after passage of an extension and before the start of the next Congress, there is an opportunity to pass a multi-year reauthorization, we would urge all

concerned to pursue that – but it would be constructive for the extension to be in place in any event so that the program and the investments it makes will continue to benefit America.

Additionally, it is vitally important that the federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) retain solvency through the extension at a minimum. The Highway Users urges Congress to transfer funds to the HTF to keep it whole at least through the determined extension length. Due to the pandemic's effects on the economy and compliance with state and local stay-at-home orders, Americans have not been buying the fuel and generating the truck tax revenue they typically would over this period of time, directly curbing receipts to the HTF. As such, the HTF will run out of money at an earlier date than originally projected, resulting in even more uncertainty than we are already experiencing.

In conclusion, the Highway Users reemphasizes the importance of Congress including relief to State departments of transportation (DOTs) to allow them to continue their roadway construction and maintenance projects this year and into 2021. As part of any pandemic related legislation or surface transportation extension, Congress should provide \$37 billion in relief to State DOTs to replace the steep decline in their fuel taxes and other State revenue used for highways in order to ensure highway users have a system they can rely on at this critical time. We support making this funding available at 100% federal share as well.

Addressing our Nation's highway and transportation infrastructure needs will help every individual and business as we emerge from the pandemic. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to offer further support for a one-year extension of the surface transportation programs, for Highway Trust Fund solvency, and for relief for State DOTs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [lauraperrotta@highways.org](mailto:lauraperrotta@highways.org) or 571-239-0765. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Perrotta, CAE  
President and CEO

CC:

The Honorable John Barrasso, Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chair, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
The Honorable Thomas R. Carper, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

**American Highway Users Alliance**

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