

Press Statement

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ASCE STATEMENT ON THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021 MARK-UP

The following is a statement by Tom Smith, Executive Director, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE):

WASHINGTON, DC. – [The American Society of Civil Engineers](http://www.ASCE.org) (ASCE) applauds the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee for unanimously passing the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021 during yesterday’s full-committee mark-up. Chairman Tom Carper and Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito continue to demonstrate bipartisan leadership to address our nation’s aging surface transportation systems and we now urge the full Senate to take the bill up before the current authorization expires on September 30th.

America’s surface transportation networks need our help, and this 34 percent boost in funding could not come at a more critical time for communities across the country. ASCE’s [2021 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure](#) assigned our nation’s bridges a grade of ‘C’, and roads a ‘D’, citing that 7.5% of the nation’s bridges are in poor condition while 40% of the nation’s roadways are in poor or mediocre condition.

This bill provides a funding boost for state and local agencies and long-term certainty for project planning, but do not confuse it for the status quo. ASCE applauds new provisions designed to address roadway safety, develop more comprehensive bike and pedestrian pathways, evaluate climate change impacts on structures, and accelerate resilience measures to ensure a better future.

We now look to the House to move quickly on their companion legislation so that a robust, long-term reauthorization can be finalized this summer and allow state and local agencies to move forward with their long-term goals to improve our nation’s road, bridge and transit systems.

We hope this swift action by Senate EPW gives momentum to Congress as they fulfill the vision for other elements of infrastructure legislation addressing water systems, ports, the energy grid, broadband, and more. American households and businesses are depending on it.

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Founded in 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 150,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America's oldest national engineering society. ASCE works to raise awareness of the need to maintain and modernize the nation's infrastructure using sustainable and resilient practices, advocates for increasing and optimizing investment in infrastructure, and improve engineering knowledge and competency. For more information, visit www.asce.org or www.infrastructurereportcard.org and follow us on Twitter, @ASCETweets and @ASCEGovRel.