

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), I want to thank you for your leadership and commitment to maintaining and modernizing our nation's surface transportation networks and preparing our communities for a resilient future. We applaud your efforts and offer our support for S. 2016, Surface Transportation Investment Act (STIA). Your five-year, \$78 billion authorization addresses the growing challenges facing human safety and our multimodal surface transportation network by providing a vital increase in funding levels to address project backlogs, provide much-needed program stability, and give added attention to freight corridors.

In ASCE's 2021 Infrastructure Report Card, our nation's roads, rail, and ports received the grades of "D," "B," and "B-," respectively. These grades reflect that 40-percent of our roadway system is currently in poor or mediocre condition; over 36,000 people are dying per year on the nation's roadways; over 6,000 pedestrians in 2019 were killed, marking a 60-percent increase of pedestrian fatalities from 10 years prior and the highest number since 1988; and only 9-percent of intermodal connector pavement are in good or very good condition. Despite the strong grade provided for our rail infrastructure, passenger investment has not kept pace with investments made by freight rail.

By taking this first step to reauthorize our federal surface transportation programs, your legislation will help address the key issues contributing to the nation's current ten-year \$1.2 trillion surface transportation investment deficit. Thank you for your leadership and support on these critical issues. We look forward to working with you as infrastructure legislation makes its way through Congress.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE
Executive Director
American Society of Civil Engineers