



August 19, 2020

Chair Tim Hennessey
House Transportation Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Room 140
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Democratic Chair Mike Carroll
House Transportation Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Room 140
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Hennessey and Representative Carroll:

The Pennsylvania State Council of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) represents approximately 5,500 civil engineering professionals who live and work in Pennsylvania. We are writing today to share our support for the Transportation Task Force bill package that is before your Committee. The legislative package developed by the Task Force is a vital first step to address the transportation funding shortfall in Pennsylvania and would allow for critical investments in our state's infrastructure.

In 2018 the ASCE Pennsylvania State Council released the Report Card for Pennsylvania's Infrastructure. The Report Card graded 18 different categories of our state's infrastructure with a cumulative grade of "C-." The transportation categories, however were all within the D range with Bridges receiving a "D+", Roads receiving a "D+", and Transit receiving a "D". The Report Card reflects the fact that Pennsylvania has some of the oldest infrastructure in the country and that significant improvements and investments are needed. For that reason, the ASCE Pennsylvania State Council recommended that the state must find ways to bring new revenue to the table to support our transportation infrastructure and address the backlog of deferred maintenance. The Transportation Task Force package does exactly this and identifies several funding and financing opportunities.

ASCE recommends that adequate funding for planning, designing, operating, maintaining, and improving the nation's transportation system be provided by a comprehensive program with sustainable dedicated revenue sources at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. The package developed by the Transportation Task Force takes this comprehensive approach. In particular, ASCE Pennsylvania is pleased to see that the legislative package:

- Expands critical innovative project delivery methods such as bundling projects and design build;
- Provides county governments more flexibility to raise revenue for vital transportation projects;
- Creates new revenue streams for local governments and county infrastructure banks;
- Extends the use of public-private partnerships for eligible municipalities; and
- Develops a pavement condition committee to ensure the safety of our state's roads.

The added flexibilities and revenue streams that this package provides local governments are necessary tools for improving Pennsylvania's infrastructure, however it must be noted that they cannot serve as a substitute for reliable funding streams, instead they should enhance existing programs.

Finally, Pennsylvania needs reliable, modern, and resilient infrastructure to rebuild our economy, put people back to work, and ensure all of us have access to healthy communities. The packaged developed by the Transportation Task Force is a first step toward making these investments a priority. We hope that the House Transportation Committee will quickly pass the legislative package presented by the Transportation Task Force and allow our state to fix our aging infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RWright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Wright, Chair
ASCE Pennsylvania State Council

CC: Kerry Benninghoff, House Majority Leader
Frank Dermody, House Minority Leader