

May 24, 2021

The Honorable Thomas Carper
United States Senate
Committee on Environment and Public Works
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
United States Senate
Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
Committee on Environment and Public Works
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
United States Senate
Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Senator Cardin, and Senator Cramer:

On behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), I want to thank you for your leadership and commitment to improving our nation's surface transportation infrastructure. We applaud and offer our support to your legislation, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021. Your bipartisan, five-year, \$303.5 billion, highway reauthorization bill represents a vital increase in funding levels, provides much-needed program stability, supports all communities, and addresses roadway safety, climate change impacts and resiliency.

In ASCE's *2021 Infrastructure Report Card*, our nation's roads and bridges received the grades of "D" and "C," respectively. These poor grades reflect that 40-percent of our roadway system is currently in poor or mediocre condition and 46,154, or 7.5-percent, of the nation's bridges, are still considered in "poor" condition. These alarming statistics are felt in both urban and rural communities across the nation. Simply put, key surface transportation infrastructure is crumbling, and strong leadership is needed to improve our safety and increase our economic competitiveness.

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

Sincerely,



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