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September 14, 2022

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) would like to express support for Shailen Bhatt's nomination to serve as administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). ASCE urges the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to consider Bhatt's nomination and confirm him to this important role.

Bhatt possesses a valuable combination of private sector and government experience, which will serve him well as he helms the FHWA. As senior vice president of global transportation innovation and alternative delivery at AECOM, Bhatt understands the country's infrastructure needs and the importance of delivering projects on time. His previous roles leading the transportation departments of Colorado and Delaware, as well as his stint as a presidential appointee at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), allowed Bhatt to gain government experience while pursuing partnerships and innovative transportation solutions.

Opportunities for improving the nation's roads and bridges have been enriched by advancements in technology. Bhatt, who previously served as CEO of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America), an organization whose purpose is to advance the research and deployment of transportation technologies, is particularly well-suited to oversee the careful and safe deployment of these technologies.

On ASCE's *2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure*, roads earned a D and bridges earned a C. ASCE believes Bhatt's skills will help guide FHWA toward some of the recommendations outlined in the Report Card, such as focusing on preserving a state of good repair while accelerating the deployment of new technologies and developing a balanced approach for our current aging bridge inventory.

ASCE was a strong supporter of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which includes substantial funds for roads and bridges. If confirmed, Bhatt will be in charge of administering IIJA initiatives such as the Bridge Replacement, Rehabilitation, Preservation, Protection, and Construction Program and the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. His

experience leading transportation efforts in both the public and private sector will be useful as projects advance under these important programs.

As implementation of the IJA continues, a Senate-confirmed administrator will be key at FHWA. ASCE believes Bhatt will be a strong and decisive leader at this agency. We urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to approve his nomination in a timely manner. Thank you for allowing us to voice our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas W. Smith III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE  
Executive Director