

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
United State Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:

On behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and our over 150,000 members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership in addressing the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As this crisis continues to impact our members and provide prolonged uncertainty, **we strongly urge Congress follow the recommendations set by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and provide our nation's state department of transportation (DOTs) with an immediate infusion of \$49.95 billion.** This investment will backstop projected revenue shortfalls and ensure our infrastructure deficit does not continue to grow.

In ASCE's 2017 Infrastructure Report Card, our nation's infrastructure received the accumulative grade of a "D+," with an investment gap of \$2 trillion, half of which is for our nation's surface transportation infrastructure. As our infrastructure continues to age, failing to close that gap risks rising costs, declining business productivity, lost jobs, and ultimately, reduced disposable income for every American family to the tune of \$9 a day.

While the current investment gap remains, under the current crisis state DOTs are unable to generate the revenue needed to prevent major disruptions in their ability to operate and maintain their transportation systems. Under this pandemic, individual state revenues are estimated to be impacted by 45% in the next 18 months. This is a result of expected decline of 50% for state motor fuel taxes, a 67% decline in toll road traffic, and a 77% decline in ferry traffic. Because of this sharp decline, state DOT's ability to provide a match for federal funds will be constrained and further impact available federal financing opportunities. Providing this necessary \$49.95 billion backstop to our state DOTs will ensure

capital construction and operation programs continue in a timely fashion, preserving safety and mobility across our nation's transportation systems.

Without action, ASCE is concerned that our nation's \$2 trillion infrastructure deficit will continue to grow, hurting economic recovery efforts and negatively impact the quality of life for each American.

ASCE appreciates the consideration of this request and looks forward to working with you to develop further legislation to stimulate our economy and ensure the health and safety of American citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.N. Gunalan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

K.N. Gunalan, Ph.D, P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE
ASCE President 2020