

July 21, 2021

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pat Toomey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Casey and Toomey,

Investing in infrastructure remains a transformational opportunity for Congress to improve the nation's economy, create thousands of good-paying jobs, and build for the future. We urge you to request a commitment for Senate floor time from Senate leadership for action on a multi-year transportation investment package before the August state work period.

The Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act was unanimously approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) and calls for historic and timely levels of investment to rebuild the nation's roads and bridges. The bill would increase federal highway investment by 34 percent, while pursuing important environmental review and approval process reforms, protecting infrastructure assets from future natural disasters, and preserving state flexibility.

The Senate Commerce Committee followed the lead of the EPW Committee by advancing rail and safety portions of a reauthorization bill in June with strong, bipartisan support.

The EPW Committee moved first in 2019 to spur action before the FAST Act surface transportation law expired in 2020, but inaction by other committees led to a stalled process and a one-year extension. Short-term extensions generate significant disruptions and uncertainty for state transportation programs, and an announcement of floor time for a transportation infrastructure package would be a strong signal of preserved continuity of federal funds and help facilitate necessary action among the remaining two Senate committees.

We continue to encourage bipartisan negotiations on a larger infrastructure package and recognize the need to invest in all forms of physical infrastructure. Moving a surface transportation authorization as part of this legislation may prove to be an important step in that process. Highway and public transportation programs are the only federal infrastructure authorizations set to expire Sept. 30 and cannot wait past the summer work period for Senate action.

Please ensure the progress made on the STRA continues by requesting Senate leadership floor consideration on a multi-year transportation investment package before the Senate adjourns for the August state work period.

Sincerely,

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania
American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania
Associated Pennsylvania Constructors
Butler Transit Authority
Constructors Association of Western Pennsylvania
Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition
Lancaster Chamber
Lebanon Transit
Pennsylvania Aggregates & Concrete Association
Pennsylvania Asphalt Pavement Association
Pennsylvania Concrete Pipe Association
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Schuylkill County Transportation Authority
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail
Heim Construction Company, Inc.
Eurovia Atlantic Coast
Northeast Paving
Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.