



July 12, 2021

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Sinema and Portman:

The American Highway Users Alliance (Highway Users), a coalition of 300 organizations including companies, trade associations, safety advocacy groups, and motoring clubs that represent millions of motorists and large portions of the economy, and also serve as the united voice of the roadway users' community, deeply appreciates the extremely valuable work you and the entire group of 22 Senators have undertaken to advance the nation's investment in infrastructure. We truly appreciate your leadership on this important effort. As negotiations on this legislation progress, we hope the group's product and the final infrastructure/reauthorization legislation contains the following key highway priorities to advance the national interest and the interest of all that use or indirectly benefit from a safe and efficient highway and transportation system.

- Robust funding levels for roads and bridges as included in the framework. The Highway Users supports designating as much funding as possible for highways via formula. Keeping in line with current formula programs and not adding complexity to getting the funding out is important to allow our limited resources to be utilized most effectively. Increased highway investment will allow us to tackle the truly massive needs that exist on our highways and bridges, as outlined by the USDOT's Conditions and Performance Report on Highways, Bridges and Transit that identified a **\$786.4 billion backlog of highway and bridge investments**.
- Providing **flexibility** for states and local governments to invest in both **new capacity** and improvements to existing roadways that make every road user's trip safer and more reliable.
- Including significant funding for roadway safety through **increasing funding for the Highway Safety Improvement Program**. This vitally important program will help the United States continue to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries and drive our nation toward zero deaths.
- Incorporating important **streamlining provisions** that will allow roadway projects to move forward more quickly resulting in better roads. The Highway Users is very supportive of the streamlining provisions included in the highway reauthorization bill ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), S. 1931.
- Retaining language reflected in both the Senate EPW and House passed transportation reauthorization bills that provide safety contingency funds to **incorporate safety**

enhancements to work zones prior to or during roadway construction and maintenance activities to ensure work zone safety is not an afterthought.

- Ensuring that the **latest rewrite of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices** moves forward without delay as there has already been an open and transparent process with thoughtful and thorough stakeholder input.
- Consider inclusion of an **autonomous vehicles infrastructure competitive grant program** to prepare our roadways for autonomous vehicles but also help all drivers who can benefit from these safety improvements.

Finally, while passing needed infrastructure and surface transportation reauthorization legislation is essential, addressing the Highway Trust Fund's (HTF) insolvency remains important and problematic into the future. The Highway Users is supportive of preserving the HTF and its funding mechanisms and hopes to continue a dialogue on a long-term fix with Congress and the Administration.

The Highway Users thanks you for your leadership on this important effort and is happy to help in any way we can to move this process forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at lauraperrotta@highways.org or 571-239-0765. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Perrotta, CAE
President and CEO

CC: The Honorable Chris Coons
 The Honorable Maggie Hassan
 The Honorable John Hickenlooper
 The Honorable Mark Kelly
 The Honorable Joe Manchin
 The Honorable Jacky Rosen
 The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
 The Honorable Jon Tester
 The Honorable Mark Warner
 The Honorable Angus King

 The Honorable Richard Burr
 The Honorable Bill Cassidy
 The Honorable Susan Collins
 The Honorable Lindsay Graham
 The Honorable Jerry Moran
 The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
 The Honorable Mitt Romney
 The Honorable Mike Rounds
 The Honorable Thom Tillis
 The Honorable Todd Young