

Senate of Pennsylvania



House of Representatives

May 6, 2020

Dear Members of Pennsylvania's Congressional Delegation:

We write to support the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' request for the U.S. Congress to allocate \$50 billion in flexible federal funding to ensure State Departments of Transportation can operate and maintain their transportation systems without disruption.

Over the last couple of months, Pennsylvania's transportation system was tested in the midst of a global pandemic. The Keystone State facilitated the transportation of critical medical supplies, supported the distribution of our food supply chain and allowed essential employees to get to work. A well-functioning transportation system is the backbone of our society and needs continuous investments to sustain the movement of goods and services.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation estimates an upward loss of \$1 billion to various State transportation funds through the end of summer. As you know, the stay-at-home order in Pennsylvania had significant impacts on incoming revenues collected from the liquid fuels tax and various fees. The financial losses are compounded when you consider the impacts to other transportation entities, such as the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and local governments.

Pennsylvania stands ready and urges Congress to pass "Phase 4" emergency relief and economic recovery package with funding for surface transportation infrastructure. If Congress pursues another phase for an infrastructure investment, we strongly recommend reauthorizing the FAST Act, which expires on September 30, 2020.

An investment in transportation infrastructure will create jobs and help stimulate the economy. We truly appreciate the funding you authorized in the CARES Act that provided fiscal relief to our airports, public transit agencies and passenger rail. Now is the time to act and to support our surface transportation infrastructure in the next COVID-19 legislation. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Kim L. Ward.

Senator Kim L. Ward, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee

Handwritten signature of Rep. Tim Hennessey.

Rep. Tim Hennessey, Chair
House Transportation Committee

Handwritten signature of Senator John P. Sabatina.

Senator John P. Sabatina, Democratic Chair
Senate Transportation Committee

Handwritten signature of Rep. Mike Carroll.

Rep. Mike Carroll, Democratic Chair
House Transportation Committee