

June 24, 2015

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Chairman  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Ranking Member  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter  
Chairman  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
U.S. Senator  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, Subcommittee Chairman Vitter, and Senator Carper:

On behalf of the 146,000 members of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) we urge quick action, and a unanimous vote by the Environment and Public Works Committee on the Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy (DRIVE) Act, the proposed six-year surface transportation authorization bill that will renew the commitment to our nation's infrastructure.

The reforms included in the DRIVE Act allow for the nation's surface transportation program to continue moving forward, building on MAP-21's focus on program consolidation, system performance and strategic outcomes. In particular, the DRIVE Act contains sound policies that fund a new national freight program and a new large project competitive grant program, carefully improve environmental review and the overall project delivery processes, and establish a state-based pilot program to explore future road user fee systems. We are pleased to see that despite the difficult federal fiscal environment, the bill provides increased funding, which is essential to improving the conditions of our nation's roads, bridges and transit systems. Combined together, these, along with other policies contained in the DRIVE Act, are all steps that will allow for a stronger, more accountable and results-orientated federal surface transportation program.

The nation's highway and transit network faces a growing number of challenges. ASCE's 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure graded Roads and Transit at a "D" and Bridges at a "C+." Inaction also has negative consequences for the pocket-books of millions of Americans with poor roads costing U.S. motorists an average of \$516 per year in vehicle repairs and operating costs in 2014.

We commend you for this bipartisan reauthorization proposal that will allow the nation's surface transportation programs to create jobs and grow the economy in the upcoming years. ASCE strongly supports the Committee's efforts in passing a comprehensive legislative package and looks forward to working with members on the Committee to see the bill through to enactment before the July 31, 2015 legislative deadline.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Stevens, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE  
President  
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)