

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairwoman
The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Reed,

Thank you for your leadership in drafting and passing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill. As you draft the FY 2019 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development appropriations bill, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) requests strong commitment to our transportation infrastructure needs by investing in key programs:

- Full funding for core Highway and Transit programs included in the FAST Act
- \$4.35 billion for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
- \$8.50 cap for Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)
- \$1.5 billion in National Infrastructure Investment/ BUILD (formerly TIGER) grants
- \$2.6 billion for Transit Capital Investment Grants (CIG)

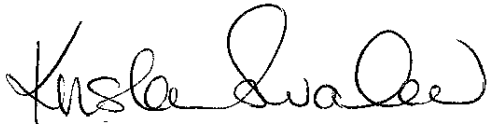
Strong leadership and investment in these programs will confront congestion at airports, which is growing; in fact, it is expected that 24 of the top 30 major airports may soon experience “Thanksgiving-peak traffic volume” at least one day every week. Furthermore, these key investments in our surface transportation infrastructure will address the needs of our nation’s 54,259 structurally deficient rated bridges, which are crossed 174 million times every day; combat the \$160 billion in wasted time and fuel while traveling on our roadways; and address the \$90 billion in transit’s maintenance backlog.

In ASCE’s *2017 Infrastructure Report Card*, our nation’s aviation infrastructure, bridges, rail, roads, and transit received grades of “D,” “C+,” “B,” “D,” and “D-,” respectively. Between 2016 and 2025, the funding gap for nation’s airports and surface transportation will be \$42 billion and \$1.1 trillion, respectively. Continued lack of action will cost our nation \$3.9 trillion in GDP and 2.5 million jobs in 2025. Today, underinvestment in our infrastructure already costs the average American family \$3,400 per year, or \$9 a day.

Simply put, we need to invest in key programs that enhance the infrastructure of our aviation system and multimodal transportation, including transit network.

ASCE believes our nation must prioritize the investment needs of infrastructure to ensure public safety, a strong economy, and the protection of our environmental resources. Strategic, robust, and sustained investments, through long-term, reliable federal funding, as well as through the utilization of alternative financing mechanisms, must be made quickly if we hope to close the growing funding gap and restore America's world-class infrastructure. We thank you for your consideration of our funding requests and look forward to working with the Committee to fund these existing successful federal infrastructure programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristina Swallow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K".

Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F. ASCE
2018 ASCE President

cc: Chairman Richard Shelby and Ranking Member Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations