



May 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader Schumer:

As the trade association representing stakeholders across the transportation sector, including state, city, and county departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, automotive manufacturers and suppliers, technology companies, engineering firms, and research universities, the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) and our Mobility on Demand Alliance write to express our support for the actions taken by Congress and the Administration to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the American economy, the transportation system, the traveling public, and the transportation workforce and their families.

Although COVID-19 is impacting every sector of the transportation industry, transportation services, providers, and workers are helping first responders, health care workers, essential workers, and people who are not able to stay at home get to where they need to go. As leaders in transportation and technology, we are grateful for the support provided by the Congress and Administration.

However, we also know that more assistance is urgently needed to keep the nation's transportation system moving and safe, especially as the country begins to reopen from the coronavirus pandemic without a vaccine but with a focus on protecting public health. With that in mind, we urge Congress and the Administration to include the following policies and funding in future COVID-19 legislation:

- Provide additional assistance to keep our nation's transportation systems solvent;
- Allow for flexible funding to offset the loss in revenues for state, county, and city departments of transportation, transit agencies, and public authorities;
- Maintain loan and grant programs to assist businesses and nonprofits in the transportation sector;
- Provide states, cities, counties, transit agencies, and public authorities flexibility with federal funds to deploy technology to stop the spread of COVID-19 including:
 - Contactless payment systems and technologies that protect transit workers and passengers; and
 - Mobility on Demand services and programs such as micromobility, ridesourcing, and microtransit to connect vulnerable communities to health care and work.
- Maintain reductions in greenhouse gases achieved during stay at home orders by increasing investments to support vehicle electrification including vehicle infrastructure, e-cargo cycling, and micromobility.
- Increase funding in smart infrastructure and vehicle research to prepare the nation's transportation system for the next pandemic, the next natural disaster, or the next human-made disaster;
- Provide flexibility to deploy lifesaving technologies to better protect pedestrians and cyclists and accelerate the deployment of biking, scootering and walking infrastructure as communities pedestrianize streets to make it easier for people to get around while socially distancing; and
- Reinstate the employer fringe benefits for cycling commuting, including expanding eligibility to include shared micromobility.



We know that we cannot simply return to the transportation priorities that preceded the pandemic. The ability of states and cities to revive their battered economies will depend on safe and reliable transportation.

In this unprecedented time, transportation technologies are being deployed in new and unforeseen ways to slow the spread of COVID-19, reinforce logistics and supply chains, and improve system performance as the American economy begins to reopen. Therefore, ITS America supports policies in the reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and a potential infrastructure bill that significantly increase investments in research, development, and deployment of technologies to make our transportation system safer, greener, smarter, and more resilient.

Thank you for your efforts to help our nation's transportation sector, transportation workers, and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Bhatt", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Shailen P. Bhatt
President & CEO

cc:

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Michael Crapo, Chair, Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee
The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Ranking Member, Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee
The Honorable John Barrasso, Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
The Honorable Thomas R. Carper, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
The Honorable Roger Wicker, Chair, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable David E. Price, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chair, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit



The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

The Honorable Frank Lucas, Ranking Member, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

The Honorable Haley Stevens, Chair, House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology

The Honorable Jim Baird, Ranking Member, House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology

Amy Ford, Director, ITS America Mobility on Demand Alliance

Ron Thaniel, Vice President of Legislative Affairs, ITS America, rthaniel@itsa.org

About ITS America:

Founded as an official advisory board on road technology to the United States Department of Transportation, ITS America's vision is a better future transformed by intelligent mobility – one that is safer, greener, and smarter. Our mission is to advance the research and deployment of intelligent transportation technologies and solutions to save lives, improve mobility, promote sustainability, and increase efficiency and productivity. For more information about ITS America, go to www.itsa.org.