



February 24, 2021

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

In anticipation of the Committee on Environment and Public Works hearing entitled “Build Back Better: Investing in Transportation while Addressing Climate Change, Improving Equity, and Fostering Economic Growth and Innovation,” the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) writes to express our strong belief that the integration of technology is key as we build for the future.

Our nation is on the cusp of great opportunity in how we define our 21st-century transportation system, one that can provide greener communities, increased opportunity and equity, and safer streets for all Americans. Technologies including connected, automated, shared, on-demand, and electrified transportation and infrastructure will define the way people, goods, services, and information move, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, and ensure that the United States continues its leadership in the technology-driven global economy.

Over the years since Congress passed the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, automated and connected vehicle technologies have advanced, the collection and use of big data have become an increasingly valuable tool for decision-makers, electrification of vehicles of every type from human scale to large scale continues, Mobility on Demand services are transforming how we get around, and technology is increasingly crucial to addressing inequities in access to transportation.

To lead the 21st-century technology-driven global economy, Congress will need to invest in digital infrastructure and rebuild and modernize our existing physical infrastructure. For these reasons, ITS America supports reauthorization of the FAST Act that provides funding for the rapid integration of advanced technologies, including predictive analytics, into transportation infrastructure, operations, and vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector and extend the life of aging infrastructure assets; creates safer roadways for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists using Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) technologies; safeguards critical transportation systems from cybersecurity threats; establishes a Mobility on Demand program so everyone gains access to mobility and opportunity; maintains congestion pricing strategies to improve mobility and the environment; and invests in broadband infrastructure to support the 21st-century surface transportation system.

ITS America also supports increased funding for research, development, and demonstration of intelligent transportation technologies, including alternative fuel, connected, automated, and urban air mobility surface infrastructure.



By investing in intelligent transportation infrastructure in the reauthorization of the FAST Act, Congress can help put people back to work when so many have lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

In these unprecedented times, ITS America's FAST Act reauthorization platform [*Moving People, Data, and Freight: Safer. Greener. Smarter.*](#) serves as a blueprint for economic recovery. It supports policies that will ensure our nation builds smart infrastructure while creating good paying jobs in the transportation sector and delivering a more equitable transportation system.

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, ITS America expresses our strong support for the actions taken by Congress to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the American economy, the transportation system, the traveling public, and transportation workers.

We look forward to working with this Committee on a reauthorization of the FAST Act that will led to a safer, greener, smarter, and more equitable transportation future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shailen Bhatt", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Shailen Bhatt
President and CEO
Intelligent Transportation Society of America

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
The Honorable Bernard Sanders
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
The Honorable Jeff Merkley
The Honorable Edward Markey
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
The Honorable Mark Kelly
The Honorable Alex Padilla
The Honorable James M. Inhofe
The Honorable Kevin Cramer
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis
The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable John Boozman
The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
The Honorable Dan Sullivan
The Honorable Joni Ernst
The Honorable Lindsey Graham

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