



March 24, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chair  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

In anticipation of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure hearing entitled “The Administration’s Priorities for Transportation Infrastructure,” 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 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;
- Increases investment in transit and 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 connected and automated technologies.

ITS America appreciates your prioritization of public safety and applauds your continued support for V2X technologies and their safe operation in the 5.9 GHz band. With the recent National Safety Council's alarming estimates that 42,060 people died on U.S. roadways last year – an eight percent jump – now is not the time to give away a majority of this spectrum. In addition, state and local transportation agencies have invested hundred of millions of dollars in this life-saving technology that would be wasted if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) plows ahead with its plan. ITS America supports language in the reauthorization of the FAST Act that preserves the 75 MHz in the 5.9 band for existing, new, and developing vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technologies.

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, 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, transit, automotive manufacturers and suppliers, technology companies, engineering firms, and research universities, ITS America expresses our strong support for the actions taken by this Committee, including the more than \$30 billion for transit in the American Rescue Plan, 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,



Shailen Bhatt  
President and CEO  
Intelligent Transportation Society of America

The ITS America Board is represented by the following organizations: AAA, AECOM, Amazon Web Services, Arizona Department of Transportation, California PATH University of California Berkeley, California State Transportation Agency, Central Ohio Transit Authority, Cisco, Cubic, District of Columbia Department of Transportation, Econolite, Florida Department of Transportation, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Google, PrePass Safety Alliance, HNTB, Iteris, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, MCity, Michael Baker International, Michelin, Michigan Department of Transportation, National Renewable Energy Lab, New York City Department of Transportation, Panasonic North America, Qualcomm, San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, San Francisco County Transportation Authority, State Farm Insurance, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Transportation Institute, Toyota, Virginia Department of Transportation, and Washington State Department of Transportation.

Cc: Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
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