



June 29, 2021

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Chair
Committee on Rules
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McGovern and Ranking Member Cole:

In anticipation of the House Committee on Rules meeting on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, to discuss amendments for floor consideration of H.R. 3684, "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act" or "the INVEST in America Act," the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) writes to express our position on several technology-related amendments.

ITS America is the nation's leading advocate for the technological modernization of our transportation system by focusing on advancing research and deployment of intelligent transportation technology. Founded as an official advisory board on road technology to the U.S. Department of Transportation, ITS America represents state and city departments of transportation, transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, automotive manufacturers, technology companies, engineering firms, automotive suppliers, insurance companies, and research and academic universities.

Autonomous Vehicles

ITS America supports the following amendment:

Amendment #248—Version 1, Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Late Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress, in broad consultation with labor, safety groups, industry, and other stakeholders, should begin establishing a federal regulatory framework for the safe deployment of autonomous vehicles nationwide that will support existing jobs and grow the United States workforce of the future, including good union jobs, keep the United States on the forefront of this technology, and keep the United States competitive around the globe.

Justification: Autonomous vehicles are on our roads today, which is why we need a federal regulatory framework – a framework that puts in place safety rules for autonomous vehicles. There are no federal regulations specifically governing the safety of autonomous vehicles. Our nation is on the cusp of a safer future transformed by automated transportation and autonomous vehicles. These technologies have the potential to eliminate the 94 percent of crashes caused by human error.

Alternative Fueling and Charging Infrastructure

ITS America opposes the following amendments:

Amendment #45—Version 1, Representative Scott Perry (R-PA), Strikes section 1211, which sets standards for EV charging stations.

Amendment #46—Version 1, Representative Scott Perry (R-PA), Strikes section 1303, which establishes a clean corridors program to provide formula funding for EV charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure.

Amendment #70—Version 1, Representatives Rick Larsen (D-WA), Lou Correa (D-CA), Randy Feenstra (R-IA), Mike Gallagher (R-WI), and Ron Kind (D-WI), Strikes language related to EV charging in rest areas and directs Department of Transportation to conduct a study on commercial services near Interstate rest areas.

Amendment #71—Version 1, Representatives Rick Larsen (D-WA), Lou Correa (D-CA), Randy Feenstra (R-IA), Mike Gallagher (R-WI), and Ron Kind (D-WI), Strikes the phrase "electric vehicle charging infrastructure" from Sec. 1118 of the bill.

ITS America supports the following amendments:

Amendment #83—Version 2, Representatives Andy Levin (D-MI) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Revised Requires Dept. of Transportation to submit to Congress a report on the plans submitted by states on their intended use of the charging allocation funds under the subsection, including details on how this makes progress towards a national network of EV chargers.

Amendment #84—Version 2, Representatives Andy Levin (D-MI) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Revised Amends eligible project considerations under Sec. 1303 Clean Corridors Program to include considerations for promoting efficient dwell times and amends Sec. 1303 Clean Corridors Program to include requirements for the provision of information on charging station placement through mapping applications.

Amendment #87—Version 1, Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL), Expands the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program to allow funding to be used to offset the incremental cost of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, related zero-emission operations equipment, battery electric charging or fuel cell electric refueling infrastructure, and related infrastructure investments.

Amendment #118—Version 2, Representatives Jason Crow (D-CO), Ritchie Torres (D-NY), and Gwen Moore (D-WI), Revised Ensures underserved communities are considered in the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure deployment.

Justification: It is important to act now to enhance the sustainability and resiliency of our transportation system to reduce transportation's outsized impact on the environment and to protect infrastructure from severe weather events and other effects of climate change. There are numerous opportunities to increase the sustainability and resiliency of the transportation system led by the advancement of electric vehicles, alternative fuel technologies, and charging infrastructure. The buildout of an alternative fueling and charging infrastructure network is a

significant factor in the successful deployment of Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs). The U.S. government's analysis suggests that additional ZEV infrastructure investments will be required to address "range anxiety." Section 1211 helps address range anxiety by allowing for the charging of EVs on rights-of-way of the Interstate System in a rest area or a fringe or corridor parking facility, including a park and ride facility.

Cybersecurity

ITS America supports the following amendments:

Amendment #178—Version 3, Bryan Steil (R-WI), Jake Auchincloss (D-MA), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Revised Directs the GAO to study and report to Congress the vulnerabilities that the United States transportation system has from ransomware and other cybersecurity threats.

Amendment #218—Version 1, Robin Kelly (D-IL), Late Requires plans to protect electric vehicle charging infrastructure from cyberattacks.

Justification: As vehicles and infrastructure become more connected, our nation's transportation system faces increasing cybersecurity risks. Given the ability to cause loss of life and inflict significant economic damage in a highly visible manner, cybersecurity attacks directed at those producing or operating technologies travelling over or connected to U.S. roadways will intensify.

Vehicle Communications Safety Technology

ITS America supports the following amendment:

Amendment #112—Version 2, Representative Haley Stevens (D-MI), Revised Adds research and development on vehicle sensor data solutions to the Vehicular Data Analytics Pilot Program to combat wrong way driving.

Justification: Transportation technologies provide significant opportunity to make our transportation system safer, including significantly reducing the nearly 37,000 fatalities and millions of injuries that occur annually on our nation's roads.

Emerging Transportation Technology Research

ITS America supports the following amendment:

Amendment #22—Version 1, Representative Tim Ryan (D-OH), Amends Sec. 5104. to add "non-traditional and emerging transportation technology" within the list of University Transportation Centers focused research programs.

Justification: There is significant recent development of emerging technology in transportation, including technology related to rapid speed travel hyperloop, urban air mobility and cargo delivery, automated cargo delivery, and blockchain and integrated technology platforms. Increased federal funding for emerging technology research and demonstration is urgently

needed to secure the United States' global leadership in the development and deployment of emerging transportation technologies. Ensuring the United States' technological leadership in transportation will have broad and substantial safety, environmental, and economic benefits.

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. The INVEST in America Act lays the foundation for a better future transformed by intelligent transportation technologies. Key to this is the buildout of alternative fueling and charging infrastructure, the deployment of transportation safety technologies, and increased investment in research, in particular funding for emerging technology research.

Sincerely,



Shailen Bhatt
President and CEO
ITS America

Cc:

Members of the House Committee on Rules

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chair, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ron Thaniel, Vice President, Public Policy and Legislative Affairs, rthaniel@itsa.org

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