



HIGHWAY MATERIALS GROUP

ACAA · ACPA · ATSSA · AED · AEM · CRSI · NAPA · NRMCA · NSSGA · PCA · PCI

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman of the Senate Committee on
Environment and Public Works
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on
Environment and Public Works
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito,

The Highway Materials Group (HMG) thanks you for your leadership and supports the introduction and passage of *The Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021*. We are appreciative of the robust and historic levels this surface transportation reauthorization package provides our surface transportation network and welcome the willingness to pass this bill expeditiously, before the current one-year extension of the FAST Act expires on September 30th. Infrastructure investment is the economic driver to put countless Americans back to work and passing a five-year reauthorization package totaling \$303.5B will go a long way towards increasing our nation's economic competitiveness.

The HMG is comprised of 11 national trade associations whose members provide the materials and equipment necessary to build America's transportation infrastructure and employ tens of thousands of hard-working men and women in well-paying jobs. America's infrastructure network is crumbling and can no longer depend on insufficient user fees and short-term extensions, and we support all efforts that deliver immediate action and work towards addressing these obstacles.

The Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021 incorporates numerous policies our collective industries support and we are encouraged these policies were included with the cooperation and support of your respective staff. In particular, we welcome inclusion of One Federal Decision, which will greatly enhance the permitting process by eliminating duplicative environmental reviews and ensure public works projects are delivered on time. Additionally, HMG is pleased to see language that would help accelerate the deployment of digital construction technologies that will extend asset lifecycles, speed up project delivery times, and reduce construction costs. We also welcome prioritization of flexible formula funds for state Department of Transportation agencies, which ensures urban and rural communities alike can receive the necessary investments to improve their local surface projects. Safety is a top priority for the construction industry, and we are grateful for the robust funding for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) totaling \$16.8B, as well as the inclusion of safety contingency funds and safety enhancements for roadway construction work sites.

As your committee has proved before, we hope this package can advance out of EPW unanimously, underscoring the bi-partisanship and broad support infrastructure investment has throughout Congress. While we understand this is just the first step, the HMG is here to help and partner with other committees of jurisdiction – Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee – to ensure their titles are drafted and passed with ample time for the Senate to consider the overall surface transportation reauthorization package.

The industries and member companies represented within HMG are a resource to you and your colleagues as this process evolves and ultimately moves through Congress and signed by the President. Thank you again for *The Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021* and recognizing the critical need this reauthorization provides for our nation’s infrastructure network. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues passing significant federal investment for our surface transportation infrastructure systems.

Sincerely,

American Coal Ash Association
American Concrete Pavement Association
American Traffic Safety Services Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
Portland Cement Association
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

cc: Members of the EPW Committee