

May 21, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Madame Speaker, House Minority Leader McCarthy, Senate Minority Leader Schumer and Senate Majority Leader McConnell:

Tomorrow is an opportunity for leadership of historic proportions to fix America's crumbling infrastructure. Discussions between Congressional leadership and the President can result in meaningful infrastructure investment our country's transportation so desperately needs. I am greatly encouraged by the agreement reached in your April 30 meeting to address an infrastructure package of \$2 trillion. The time is now to identify the funding for such a package and get America's infrastructure back on track.

On behalf of the over 400-member companies of the National Stone, Sand, & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I write to reiterate our association's support for a robust, fully funded Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and funding to address our nation's crumbling infrastructure. The need to repair our existing infrastructure and meet the needs of our communities today and into the future has never been greater. Look no further than today's article in *Axios*, titled ['Future foretold: A new America in 2040.'](#)

The brief article succinctly illustrates the major shifts this country, and our demographics, will experience over the next 20 years: from socio-economic impacts; to religion; to where we will live. This article highlights the need to repair and update America's infrastructure so clearly without even mentioning the word. While it is universally accepted that our current infrastructure lags behind our needs – a D+ grade from the American Society of Civil Engineers¹ – we must also understand that funding and policy developments under consideration cannot simply focus on the present, but must also meet the infrastructure needs of the next generation.

¹ ASCE's 2017 Infrastructure Report Card - <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>

For example, by 2040, it is estimated that 87% of the U.S. population will live in urban areas, according to UN projections². The strain and reliance we will have on our infrastructure in and around cities across the country will dramatically increase in correlation with that concentration of people. Today's infrastructure does not meet today's needs, let alone those of tomorrow. We must pass meaningful legislation immediately to best anticipate these needs.

My association has repeatedly facilitated dialogue and engaged elected officials regarding how best to fund such a critical bill. We all know there are many options to consider: public-private partnerships; and new user fees, such as vehicles miles traveled (VMTs). But an immediate increase of the federal fuel user fee will help us identify the current infrastructure needs while providing a foundation of financial support and commitment for the future – a future that will demand dramatic infrastructure investment if we want to be the world's economic power.

Everyone understands the positive impacts infrastructure can have on jobs, the economy and increased quality of life for its users. Today we pay the price for not adequately funding our infrastructure for decades. In 20 years, people will look back at this moment in time. This opportunity to make meaningful infrastructure investment cannot be missed. We need Congressional leadership to fund a meaningful infrastructure investment package. This is an historic moment to make your mark on America's infrastructure for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration, and I appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Johnson
President and CEO
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association

² Axios - *Future foretold: A new America in 2040* – <https://www.axios.com/being-30-in-2040-future-new-world-us-diversity-2d3ba6db-3345-4ec4-97a8-9282fe1cee67.html>