



April 20, 2015

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Shuster, and Ranking Members Boxer and DeFazio:

On behalf of the local government community and its elected and appointed transportation officials, we are writing to thank you for your ongoing efforts to avoid any disruption in the flow of critical transportation funding for federally-assisted bridge, highway, and transit projects. As you continue your efforts to secure an adequately-funded, multi-year surface transportation bill, our organizations will stand with you to advance this critical legislation, especially as our members see renewed Congressional commitments to local and regional decision-making.

Our organizations are united in requesting modest program changes that build upon longstanding elements of current law. Specifically, we urge you to suballocate more funding to local decision-makers and local areas under the Surface Transportation Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, details of which we have shared with your staff. We also seek reaffirmation of longstanding federal commitments to the more than 177,000 federal-aid highway bridges (or “on-system bridges”) that are not a part of the designated National Highway System, which lost access to predictable funding after MAP-21 took effect. These requests can be accomplished within the program’s current structure, without the need for new programs.

Cities and counties collectively own 78 percent of the nation’s road miles, 43 percent of the nation’s federal-aid highway miles, 50 percent of the nation’s bridge inventory, and operate a majority of the nation’s transit systems. According to a 2015 Pew Charitable Trusts analysis, cities and counties collectively spend \$75 billion annually on highways and transit, just four percent less than what states are investing. It is our firm belief that local elected officials, who are responsible for the vast majority of the system, are best situated to direct available transportation resources to projects that best serve their communities and regions.



Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio

April 20, 2015

RE: AMPO, NACO, NADO, NARC, NLC and USCM

Page 2

Despite owning a majority share of our country's transportation network and making a substantial investment in surface transportation infrastructure, local governments and their metropolitan and regional planning organizations receive a relatively small share of overall federal transportation funds. MAP-21 further strained local governments by decreasing – by 30 percent – the amount of highway funds available for the transportation infrastructure they own. Increasing locally available federal transportation funds would have tremendous benefits for the nation's regional economies, without major disruptions to the underlying legislative approaches.

We are appreciative of the committees' continued interest in the local government perspective on federal transportation funding and policy, and were pleased that Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker had the opportunity to share his views on these issues at a recent hearing before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. We remain ready to help in any way we can and look forward to participating in future opportunities with the committees.

As representatives of the local government community, our organizations and our members are committed to working with you and your colleagues in Congress to move this critical legislation and America forward.

Sincerely,



Hon. Elaine Clegg  
Vice President, AMPO  
Council Member, City of Boise



Hon. Riki Hokama  
President, NACO  
Council Member, Maui County



Terry Bobrowski  
President, NADO  
Executive Director, East Tennessee  
Development District



Hon. Gary W. Moore  
President, NARC  
Judge, Boone County



Hon. Ralph Becker  
President, NLC  
Mayor, City of Salt Lake



Hon. Kevin Johnson  
President, U.S. Conference of Mayors  
Mayor, City of Sacramento