

Highway and Transit Member Project Designations

Sending Office: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

March 3, 2021

Dear Colleague:

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will advance surface transportation authorization legislation later this spring, building on H.R. 2, the “Moving Forward Act,” from the 116th Congress. This letter outlines several opportunities for additional Member engagement in the development of this important legislation.

Policy Priorities

The Committee invites Member feedback on H.R. 2 as we continue the reauthorization process. Member recommendations and related surface transportation policy priorities must be submitted via letter to the Committee and must be received via email to [REDACTED] no later than April 14, 2021. To facilitate review, the Committee encourages Member feedback to focus on direct modifications or additions to the programs and policies set forth in H.R. 2.

Member Day Hearing

The Committee will hold a Member Day hearing again this Congress. This hearing will be held on **April 14 at 11 a.m.** to receive testimony from Members not on the Committee on H.R. 2 and related policy priorities, as well as project requests. Additional information on how to participate in Member Day will be laid out in a future communication from the Committee.

Project Requests

The Committee also intends to provide an opportunity for Members to submit requests for highway and transit project designations. The formal process to submit project requests, including detailed information on how to submit projects and the documentation required, will be announced later this month. However, to provide Member offices as much time as possible to vet potential projects, we are releasing key information in advance of a formal rollout. The Committee strongly

encourages Members to begin gathering this information now, as we anticipate the window to submit project requests will be relatively short.

In addition to basic project information, the Committee will require all submissions to include the following information for each project requested:

- Documentation that the project is on the State, Tribal, or territorial transportation improvement program (STIP); and on the metropolitan transportation improvement program (TIP), if applicable
- Sources of funding for the full share of the cost of the project beyond the amount requested
- Letter(s) of support from the State department of transportation, or local government, transit agency, or other non-Federal sponsor
- A description of the process that has been or will be followed to provide an opportunity for public comment on the project
- Project phase (e.g. Planning, Final Design, Construction)
- NEPA category of action (e.g. Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement)
- Status of environmental review
- Whether the project has received Federal funding previously, and if so, the source and amount
- Certification that the Member, their spouse, and other immediate family members do not have a financial interest in the project

The Committee strongly encourages Member offices to engage with your State department of transportation, regional transportation and metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies, and other local transportation agencies to get an understanding of eligible projects, and the priorities of the transportation agencies in your districts and State, based on the above parameters.

The Committee further encourages Member offices to consider projects that will help advance the goals of the surface transportation authorization legislation, which include building a safer transportation network, increasing access, strengthening our multi-modal transportation systems, reducing carbon pollution, enhancing environmental justice, supporting underserved communities, and improving state of good repair of our Nation's infrastructure.

We are certain you will have questions as you start to formulate your policy and project priorities. In addition to detailed written instructions and guidelines the Committee will release later this month, we also intend to hold a least one virtual briefing and Q&A session to facilitate this process. In the meantime, please direct any questions to Committee staff by emailing [REDACTED]

We look forward to your partnership in advancing a surface transportation bill that invests in America, breaks ground on critical projects in our communities, and transforms the way we build and move.

Sincerely,

CHAIRMAN PETER A. DEFazio

CHAIRWOMAN ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON