

June 7, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

On behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), I want to thank you for your leadership and commitment to maintaining and modernizing our nation's surface transportation networks and preparing our communities for a resilient future. We applaud your efforts and offer our support for, the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act. Your five-year, \$547 billion authorization addresses the growing challenges facing our roads, bridges, and transit systems by providing a vital increase in funding levels to address project backlogs, provide much-needed program stability, and give added attention to safety, the impacts of climate change, and resiliency.

In ASCE's *2021 Infrastructure Report Card*, our nation's roads, bridges, and transit systems received the grades of "D," "C," and "D-" respectively. These poor grades reflect that 40-percent of our roadway system is currently in poor or mediocre condition, 46,154 bridges are still considered in "poor" condition, and there is a growing \$176 billion transit project backlog with about 45 percent of Americans still lacking access to transit. These alarming conditions are felt in both urban and rural communities across the nation. Simply put, inaction is not an option, and strong leadership is needed to improve our safety and increase our economic competitiveness.

By taking this first step to reauthorize our federal surface transportation programs, your legislation will help address the key issues that grow our current ten-year \$1.2 trillion transportation investment deficit. Thank you for your leadership and support on these critical issues. We look forward to working with you as infrastructure legislation makes its way through Congress.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE  
Executive Director  
American Society of Civil Engineers