



June 15, 2020

Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Daniel Lipinski, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen DeFazio and Lipinski:

The Will County Governmental League (WCGL) enthusiastically joins the chorus of advocates SUPPORTING the recent release of the INVEST in America Act. WCGL is comprised of 33 municipalities, the County of Grundy, and the County of Will, representing a population of nearly 1 million residents in northeastern Illinois.

After a review of the bill we find many of the broad themes of the bill are examples of the leadership needed in the 21st Century. In particular, local government is literally where the rubber meets the road. We are on the front lines of infrastructure from potholes, to congestion relief, and to managing transportation assets, everything begins and ends with us when it comes to our residents. Because of that, it is important to give local government and local elected officials more resources and more decision-making authority, and this legislation does just that.

Overall we are very supportive of the bill and how it increases the needed funding levels for all modes of transportation, especially by providing increased funding levels and program flexibility for municipal communities. We are particularly supportive of the bill's desire to return transportation and infrastructure assets to states of good repair, that of increasing opportunities for bike and pedestrian safety, and that of expanding local decision-making in projects completed under the surface transportation block grant program. In short, there are many provisions to laud within the bill. Finally, WCGL also recognizes and supports the COVID-19 fiscal support contained within the bill.

The lack of a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill upon the expiration of the FAST Act on September 30, 2020, will undoubtedly create programming and financing

Beecher	Bolingbrook	Braidwood	Channahon	Coal City	Crest Hill	Diamond	Elwood	Frankfort
Homer Glen	Joliet	Lemont	Lockport	Manhattan	Minooka	Mokena	Monee	Naperville
Lenox	Orland Park	Oswego	Peotone	Plainfield	Rockdale	Romeoville	Shorewood	New
	Symerton	Tinley Park	University Park	Wilmington	Woodridge			
		County of Grundy	County of Will					



difficulties for all transportation stakeholders and hinder public transportation efficiencies. Therefore, we support your every effort to get a surface transportation reauthorization bill enacted prior to the expiration of the FAST Act.

Chairman DeFazio and Subcommittee Chairman Lipinski, thank you for your leadership on this transformational legislation. Your ongoing support of a strong federal transportation program that includes funding and flexibility for both national and municipal issues is appreciated. We look forward to working with you as reauthorization discussions progress. Please feel free to contact our offices at 815-254-7700.

Sincerely,

Hugh O'Hara
Executive Director

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Symerton Tinley Park University Park Wilmington Woodridge
County of Grundy County of Will