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The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), thank you for your leadership in advancing the BUILD America 250 Act and for developing a bipartisan surface transportation bill that recognizes the importance of safety, project delivery, and local and regional infrastructure. We are especially grateful for the Committee's attention to the role metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) play in helping federal transportation investments move from policy to results on the ground.

MPOs sit at the center of that work. Across the country, 410 MPOs bring together local governments, state DOTs, transit agencies, freight partners, and the public to identify transportation needs, prioritize investments, and move projects forward based on data, coordination, and local needs. When MPOs have the tools to plan well, federal transportation dollars go farther, and projects are better positioned to deliver.

AMPO appreciates the bill's meaningful steps to strengthen metropolitan planning, including the increased federal share for Metropolitan Planning Program funds, a process for qualified MPOs to become direct recipients of planning funds, and expanded eligibility for funds. These provisions would reduce administrative burden, improve accountability, and better reflect the important role MPOs play in federal transportation investment and project delivery.

We are also thankful for the bill's commitment to preserving local and regional access to federal transportation funding, including through local bridge investments and safety programs. These provisions recognize that many of the nation's transportation needs are identified and delivered at the local and regional level, and that communities need reliable access to federal resources to address infrastructure, improve safety, and deliver projects that respond to real needs on the ground.

The BUILD America 250 Act is an important step forward for MPOs, local governments, and regional transportation planning. AMPO is grateful for the Committee's bipartisan work and for the thoughtful provisions included in the bill. As the process moves forward, we look forward to working with the Committee to build on this progress and further strengthen Metropolitan



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Planning Program funding. Planning is where projects begin, where local needs are translated into investment decisions, and where federal transportation dollars are positioned to deliver lasting results. Ensuring MPOs have the capacity to do that work well will be essential to the success of this bill and the federal transportation program as a whole. AMPO stands ready to serve as a resource as the bill advances, please reach out to Katie Economou, AMPO Legislative Director, (keconomou@ampo.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill Keyrouze
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations