



June 11, 2020

Chairman Peter DeFazio
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Eleanor Holmes Norton
House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Chair Norton,

Thank you for your efforts in the INVEST Act to build new opportunities for intergovernmental partnerships. Cities, counties, and townships own and maintain 3.1 million miles of America's roads, making up more than three quarters of the national network, and we are fully capable and ready to partner in a shared vision of a more connected, safe, and sustainable future. **As we move forward on INVEST, our coalition of Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) asks for your full support in continuing recent progress on empowering locals with the following:**

- 1) **Continue to step up the share of the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to ensure that program funding levels remain level and certain during COVID-19 recovery.** With the budget strain of the pandemic, this reauthorization with early FY2021 funding will be incredibly helpful. However, local economies historically lag their states' recovery by a few years as they do not have taxing autonomy. As the primary formula program for regions, STP is critical to local economic recovery. Using the past 1% step-up each year, as in the FAST Act, would ensure that funding keeps pace. Repeating the step-up of 1% would bring the local share up to 60% which would still be slightly below its historic funding level of 62.5%.
- 2) **Deliver formula funds to local areas for carbon pollution reduction and pre-disaster mitigation.** Local decision-making and project selection will be essential in delivering solutions that reduce carbon pollution and increase the resilience of the nation's transportation system. To accomplish this, the new programs on carbon pollution reduction and pre-disaster mitigation should be suballocated to areas by population in the same manner as funds are distributed under STP, including with proportional obligation authority. This will make local areas full partners in these important programs and ensure all levels of government are aligned in their goals.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests as we continue to partner to rebuild and invest in our nation's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
National Association of Counties
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Regional Councils
National League of Cities
U.S. Conference of Mayors

