

Month _____, 2026

The Honorable [Name]
United States [Senate/House of Representatives]
Washington, DC 20510 / 20515

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name]:

On behalf of the [State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations / State MPO Coalition], we write to express our support for **H.R. 7437, the Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act**, introduced by Representatives Kristen McDonald Rivet and Rob Bresnahan.

The [number] **Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)** in [State] are responsible for regional transportation planning and programming across the state's metropolitan regions. MPOs help guide approximately \$[amount] in **annual federal transportation funding** to improve safety, reduce congestion, and support economic growth for [number] **residents** across our state.

The BASICS Act would strengthen the federal transportation program and improve the ability of regional partners to plan and deliver projects that meet the needs of growing communities.

Strengthens regional planning capacity.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations are responsible for developing fiscally constrained Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) that identify priority projects meeting federal performance goals. The BASICS Act increases Metropolitan Planning (PL) funding so MPOs can meet growing federal planning requirements and support stronger regional plans and project selection that reflects long-term regional priorities.

Delivers regional priorities faster.

The BASICS Act increases funding for the **Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program**, the most flexible federal surface transportation formula program. STBG allows states and regions to efficiently advance projects and deliver tangible benefits for businesses, workers, and communities in every congressional district.

Promotes transparency and collaboration.

Federal transportation investments should reflect the priorities of the communities they serve. The BASICS Act reinforces collaboration among federal, state, regional, and local partners and strengthens transparency in how transportation projects are planned and delivered.

Improves roadway safety.

With roadway fatalities remaining a serious concern nationwide, the BASICS Act increases and protects funding for the **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)**. The legislation also ensures that **25 percent of HSIP funds are delivered through MPOs** for proven safety projects that complement programs such as Safe Streets and Roads for All.

Invests in locally owned bridges.

Local governments own a significant share of bridges across the country. The BASICS Act ensures federal bridge funding better reflects this reality by directing resources proportionally to locally owned bridges, helping communities address maintenance needs and repair bridges in poor condition.

The BASICS Act is supported by the **Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition**, representing **counties, cities, towns, MPOs, regional councils, and economic development organizations** nationwide. Coalition members include the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM). This broad coalition reflects nationwide recognition that local and regional governments play a critical role in shaping and delivering transportation investments.

There is nothing more basic than local roads and bridges. By supporting the BASICS Act, Congress can help ensure that cities, counties, and MPOs in **[State]** have the resources and tools needed to deliver transportation systems that connect communities, support local economies, and improve safety for residents across the state.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[State MPO Association / Organization]