

June 23, 2015

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer:

The Americans for Transportation Mobility (ATM) Coalition, a national coalition of business, labor, highway and transit interests and concerned citizens, applauds the leadership of Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer and Senators Vitter and Carper for introducing the “Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy (DRIVE) Act,” a strong, six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill. ATM urges EPW to consider and expeditiously report this important legislation.

The DRIVE Act would provide state and local governments with stable and growing transportation funding and important policy reforms to ensure federal dollars are spent wisely. This legislation authorizes between \$3 billion and \$8 billion a year more funding than the \$41 billion currently provided for the federal highway program. The bill would create a new dedicated freight program, and a program to fund mega-projects. The bill would also build on the successes of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (known as MAP-21) to improve efficiencies and accountability.

Highway and transit investments facilitate national, regional, and local economic growth in the long term and create direct jobs in the short term. Furthermore, without the certainty of a multi-year reauthorization, current problems become harder to solve as conditions worsen and land, labor, and materials get more expensive. There would be continued uncertainty and erratic funding for critical infrastructure investments and the public and private sectors would continue to respond by delaying projects, withdrawing investment, and laying off employees.

ATM commends the Committee on the important first step of introducing and marking up a six-year surface transportation authorization that provides essential funding authorization. ATM acknowledges that there are significant challenges in finding the revenue needed to offset this legislation. ATM stands ready to bring together business, labor, highways and transit stakeholders to provide Congress the public support to identify the necessary revenues and pass an adequately funded multi-year surface transportation bill.

Sincerely,

The Americans for Transportation Mobility Coalition

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works