

October 20, 2015

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

The Americans for Transportation Mobility (ATM) Coalition, a national coalition of business, labor, highway and transit interests and concerned citizens, thanks the leadership of House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I), Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, and Representatives Graves and Norton, for introducing the “Surface Transportation Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2015” (STRRA), a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill. ATM commends this important step and urges Committee members to support this legislation.

Although STRRA would provide state and local governments with three years of stable transportation funding and important policy reforms to ensure federal dollars are spent wisely, it fails to provide investment levels necessary to meet our nation’s surface transportation needs. The bill includes policies to accelerate project delivery and a mechanism to automatically increase funding if highway trust fund receipts are higher than forecasted. The bill would also build on the successes of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (known as MAP-21) to increase flexibility and 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 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 leadership on the important first step of introducing a multi-year surface transportation authorization bill and scheduling a markup. ATM stands ready to bring together business, labor, and highway and transit stakeholders to provide Congress the public support to identify the necessary revenues and pass a robust multi-year surface transportation bill.

Sincerely,

The Americans for Transportation Mobility Coalition