

Washington Office
101 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Suite 375 East
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 789-7850
Fax: (202) 789-7859
Web: <http://www.asce.org>

December 3, 2015

Dear Members of the United States House of Representatives & United States Senate:

On behalf of the 150,000 members of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) we urge you to vote in favor of the conference report to accompany H.R. 22, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. This five-year surface transportation authorization bill will renew the nation's federal commitment to our road, bridge, transit and railway infrastructure.

The FAST Act would represent the longest surface transportation authorization in nearly a decade and provide the greatest funding increase for federal road, bridge and transit programs since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The legislation will help create thousands of U.S. jobs and improve our nation's surface transportation infrastructure. The long-term certainty provided by this bill will allow states and localities to plan and deliver important transportation projects that they have been unable to deliver throughout the recent cycle of short-term extensions. Importantly, the bill increases both highway and transit investment levels and grows the overall program which is essential to addressing our nation's surface transportation maintenance and construction backlog.

The policy reforms included in the FAST Act will improve various aspects of the nation's surface transportation program, building on MAP-21's focus on program consolidation, system performance and strategic outcomes. In particular, the FAST Act contains sound policies that will improve roadway safety, streamline the environmental review and permitting process, enhance freight movement, and increase the level of private-sector investment in surface transportation projects. We are pleased to see that despite the difficult federal fiscal environment, the bill provides increased funding, which is necessary to help improve the condition and performance of our nation's roads, bridges and transit systems. Combined together these policy reforms and funding increases are improvements that will allow for a stronger, more accountable and results-orientated federal surface transportation program.

The nation's highway and transit network faces a growing number of challenges. ASCE's 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure graded Roads and Transit at a "D" and Bridges at a "C+." These network conditions have negative consequences on the pocket-books of millions of Americans as poor roads cost motorists an average of \$516 per year in vehicle repair and operating costs. Enactment of the FAST Act will help get the country back on track so that we can begin to seriously address these challenges.

Thank you for your previous effort in passing a surface transportation authorization bill which has paved the way for Congress to vote on this conference report. This final vote is essential to delivering an infrastructure program that will create American jobs and grow our nation's economy in the years ahead. ASCE strongly supports a YEA vote in favor of the FAST Act and we look forward to working

with you in the coming months and years ahead to address additional infrastructure challenges in aviation, water and energy sectors.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Woodson, P.E., L.S., D,WRE, F.ASCE
President



Thomas W. Smith, III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE
Executive Director