



# LEGISLATIVE ALERT

October 21, 2015

Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

The AFL-CIO commends your efforts in crafting the bi-partisan Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act (STRRA) of 2015. Our nation needs a long-term plan to modernize our surface transportation system—action that is long overdue.

While the funding levels fall short of what is needed, the legislation will create employment opportunities, improve our surface transportation infrastructure, and give state and local governments the certainty they need for long-term project planning.

Other improvements contained in the STRRA include; streamlined processes and accelerated project delivery, improved transit worker safety, strengthened Buy America provisions, increased transparency, and extending positive train control (PTC) compliance deadlines (ensuring that freight and commuter railroads continue to operate while working toward full implementation of PTC). We have concerns with some sections of the bill, including language related to public-private partnerships and we look forward to working with you to make improvements in these areas.

The need to invest in our transportation infrastructure at higher funding levels is necessary and well documented. Enacting the STRRA will move us beyond the uncertainty created by short-term extensions. We ask that you continue to work diligently in your efforts to find ways to increase transportation funding.

The nation's infrastructure creates the foundation for our economy. In a state of good repair, it stimulates growth, makes us more globally competitive, creates good jobs, and improves the quality of life of our citizens. The AFL-CIO urges you to move the STRRA promptly through committee and onto the House floor. We also look forward to consideration of a House and Senate conferenced bill as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director  
Government Affairs Department