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November 18, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Leader Reid, and Leader Pelosi:

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) expresses our appreciation for your leadership in prioritizing the passage of the surface transportation reauthorization bill in each of your chambers. AASHTO is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

As Congress begins the House-Senate Conference Committee meetings and deliberations on H.R. 22 this week, we urge you to build upon the positive momentum created by the *Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy (DRIVE) Act* and the *Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform (STRR) Act* by passing a well-funded, long-term surface transportation reauthorization.

Key to the vision of a modern, safe, and reliable national surface transportation system is the certainty provided by sustained and robust levels of federal funding. By authorizing the federal transportation program at or beyond current funding levels and providing resources necessary to support the Highway Trust Fund for at least five years, Congress can finally end the cycle of numerous short-term extensions and the resulting casualty of cancelled projects, lost jobs, and forgone opportunities to significantly improve the economy and quality of life nationwide.

Furthermore, this transportation bill must reaffirm the century-long partnership between the federal and state governments by preserving the current share of highway funding to states via apportioned programs, continue streamlining the environmental review process to speed project delivery while improving the environment, and provide implementation flexibility for states in order to best meet the unique and diverse mobility needs of their citizens and businesses.

Over the past three years since the last transportation bill, states around the country have stepped forward and invested billions of dollars to repair and upgrade our nation's transportation infrastructure to ensure their continued safety and viability. However, states cannot do this alone. We stand ready to support your leadership in passage of a fully-funded, long-term surface transportation reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,



Bud Wright  
Executive Director