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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kiana Valentine

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

Transportation California writes to urge inclusion of transportation infrastructure funding in a future round of federal economic stimulus in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Passage of a long-term surface transportation bill would also be extremely beneficial as we collectively try to recover the nation's economy from the current public health crisis. These two actions together - immediate infrastructure investment paired with a long-term transportation blueprint - will have a multiplier effect on the economy and allow California and other states to keep vital transportation projects on track, keep people working and businesses going, and plan for our future.

Transportation California represents the construction industry and workforce that builds, repairs, and maintains California's multi-modal transportation system. Founded in 1990, we are non-partisan, non-profit coalition whose management and labor member organizations provide for more than 200,000 California jobs. We advocate for solutions to improve our infrastructure, grow the economy, and enhance our quality of life.

In California, the transportation industry has worked tirelessly to ensure construction continues in the state, protecting valuable jobs and supporting one of the few fully operational segments of the economy, while taking extra precautions and measures to protect the health and safety of the workforce and public. However, we are preparing for a significant reduction in state and locally generated transportation revenue in the coming months as a result of the slowing economy, putting jobs and businesses at-risk.

AASHTO estimates states will lose an average of 30-percent of state generated revenues. This loss will disrupt billions of dollars in current transportation projects. Local and regional governments will also suffer similar losses further exacerbating delivery of projects to improve public safety and repair and replace aging infrastructure. We therefore respectfully request an immediate

investment of federal funding to help backfill state revenue losses that support state, regional, and county and city transportation projects. The state and its local partners have additional shovel-ready projects should further federal economic stimulus be necessary and can be directed to existing federal programs making the investment relatively seamless.

While states and local agencies put this more immediate investment to use, Congress can and should finalize and adopt a long-term surface transportation authorization that gives states, regions, and local governments the ability to look forward. The industry was already feeling the impacts of an uncertain reauthorization process, let alone the unanticipated impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. A robust reauthorization will help California and the nation sustain these uncertain economic times and give the state and local agencies as well as the industry some predictability to provide broad economic benefits to communities across the state and improve the quality of infrastructure that will keep the country moving for years to come.

Sincerely,



Kiana L. Valentine
Executive Director