

The centerpiece of a national infrastructure-based recovery agenda should be a multi-year reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation law – the FAST Act – with sustainable and growing revenues to support critical highway and transit projects. Congress has an opportunity to provide the resources and program enhancements to upgrade our current roads, bridges, transit and rail systems to address years of deferred maintenance and rehabilitation, while modernizing our networks to accommodate expected growth in population and freight movement, incorporate new technologies, improve safety, and strengthen resilience.

An injection of federal funds will also help to stabilize state and local economies and backstop infrastructure budgets that have been severely impacted by the response to the coronavirus pandemic and significant loss of revenue. Investing now is critical for near-term economic recovery and laying the foundation for long-term growth.

ACEC's top priorities for a long-term surface transportation and economic recovery bill:

Robust Funding Supported By User Fees

- » Raise revenues to provide for the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and substantially grow investment.
- » Support the continued development of alternative funding mechanisms such as mileage-based user fees.
- » Incentivize private investment through TIFIA financing and lifting the cap on Private Activity Bonds.

Improved Infrastructure Resilience

- » Provide financial and other resources to equip public agencies with the tools to routinely and holistically assess and manage risks.
- » Develop the necessary standards, research, technical support, and inter-agency processes to cost effectively mitigate future hazards.

Contracting Policies to Ensure Qualified, Innovative Engineering

- » Avoid restrictions on the ability of State departments of transportation to partner with private sector firms on any phase of project delivery.
- » Promote procurement practices that ensure a qualifications-based process for engineering and design services and encourage innovation, competition, and efficiency in contracting.

Streamline Regulations for Efficient Project Delivery

- » Continue to advance resources and flexibilities to simplify regulatory reviews while ensuring environmental performance and public interest protections.

