



Transportation Construction Coalition Principles for the 2026 Surface Transportation Reauthorization

The Transportation Construction Industry's Roadmap for American Transportation Investment

The 2026 surface transportation reauthorization marks a pivotal moment as rising travel demand strains the aging infrastructure the nation relies on every day. Americans want safer roads, easier commutes, and stronger supply chains that deliver reliable, affordable access to essential goods.

The Transportation Construction Coalition is the united voice of America's transportation construction industry. Our principles offer a clear roadmap to help Congress meet this moment and its obligation to make strong, reliable infrastructure investments and deliver lasting results.



Protect Current Investment Levels & Adjust for Inflation. Congress should continue strong federal investment, ensuring every community can maintain safe and efficient transportation systems, even as costs rise.



Fix the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) & Establish Fair User Fees. Congress should modernize the HTF with fair, dedicated, and sufficient user-fee solutions that will stabilize long-term federal transportation funding and prevent HTF shortfalls. This includes options like updating the federal gas tax and establishing new user fees for electric and hybrid vehicles.



Build on Proven Funding Programs & Grants. Congress should preserve successful formula programs and discretionary grants that have demonstrated ROI for improving road, bridge and transit systems, and re-evaluate discretionary grants that lack clear national or regional relevance.



Accelerate Project Delivery. Congress should streamline burdensome federal review processes that run up costly delays, without cutting corners on safety or environmental quality.



Unleash New Investments By Unlocking Financing Tools. To catalyze greater private investments, Congress should reform TIFIA, lift the cap on Private Activity Bonds and eliminate the ban on tolling, which would create significant new revenue streams and ease congestion.



Make Buy America work for America. Rigid Buy America rules create extreme and costly delays when crucial materials are prohibitively expensive or not produced domestically. Congress should establish a short-term waiver protocol, maintain lists of Buy America-compliant materials, and preserve current exemptions for essential construction materials.



Improve Work Zone Safety. Congress should continue investing in work zone safety with more research funding and state incentives to reduce risks, protect workers, and save lives.



Fix Unpredictable Funding Gaps. The Federal Highway Administration should have flexibility to address unpredictable, extraordinary cost spikes that occur after construction starts.



Build Stronger for the Future. Congress should prioritize investments and delivery for projects using proven materials, innovative designs, and smart systems to future-proof investments and improve resilience against severe weather, extreme heat, and heavy traffic.