



# Surface Transportation Reauthorization: A Guide to Advocacy

As Congress debates the next surface transportation reauthorization bill, it's imperative that members hear from you about the urgency of its passage and the importance of new investments in our nation's roads, highways, bridges, transit, and multimodal infrastructure.

Within this guide, you'll find tips on how to reach policymakers and key talking points for your reference.

## Messaging Guidance & Talking Points

### *Key Messages*

- The investments made by the 2021 infrastructure law are delivering results with improved transportation systems in every congressional district, but the work is not done.
- The next surface transportation reauthorization comes at a critical moment for the country as the demand on our roads, bridges, and multimodal systems continues to grow.
- Congress should protect current transportation funding levels and adjust them for inflation. That means maintaining strong, reliable investments across federal highways and multimodal programs, so that states and communities can keep America building, repairing, and improving the systems we rely on every day.
- Congress should also find new, sustainable funding sources so that essential transportation upgrades, repairs, and new construction projects do not slow down or stall.

### *About the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation*

- Surface transportation reauthorization legislation funds America's highways, roads, bridges, multimodal transit systems, and safety programs. It sets the federal policies, programs, and investments that guide transportation planning and delivery over the next five years.
- The most recent surface transportation reauthorization was included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and expires on September 30, 2026.
- If Congress does not pass a new, multi-year transportation law before the current one expires, transportation projects could be jeopardized as states need long-term certainty to plan.

### *Supply Chain & Affordability*

- Roads, highways, and transit systems are essential to America's health, happiness, and safety. For families stuck in traffic and businesses facing freight delays, transportation projects are not just a matter of convenience – they determine costs and quality of life.
- America's supply chain depends on infrastructure. When freight trucks break down because of poor road maintenance or get bottlenecked in recurring congestion, those delays create costly disruptions that lead to higher costs for groceries and everyday goods.
- Traffic congestion has real economic costs. The average U.S. driver spends 43 hours sitting in traffic each year – about an entire work week – amounting to more than **\$74 billion** in lost time nationwide.
- Increased highway investment is essential to deliver projects that will improve road conditions, reduce bottlenecks, and keep people and goods moving safely and efficiently.

## Infrastructure Upgrades & Safety

- Americans count on modern infrastructure to get them to their destinations quickly and safely – whether dropping children off at school or commuting to work.
- However, decades of deferred maintenance and delayed construction projects continue to add up, creating safety risks in communities across the country.
- About one-third of America's bridges need to be repaired or replaced, underscoring the urgency of sustained investments. A lapse in funding could allow critical projects to be delayed, while the costs will only grow.
- Without sustainable funding sources, critical transportation upgrades, repairs, and new projects may be delayed.

## Job Growth & Economic Opportunities

- Continued infrastructure investment can help strengthen the economy.
- Transportation construction, design, and maintenance activity supports **\$650 billion** in economic output.
- Our industry sustains roughly **4.4 million jobs** nationwide, helping strengthen local economies and create good-paying work across the country.
- Robust, reliable funding is key to keeping workers on the job, contractors and small businesses growing, and families benefiting from new projects and better opportunities in their communities.

## How to Advocate

There are many ways you can effectively communicate with Congress and engage your members on the importance of surface transportation reauthorization. The best approach is the one that fits your voice and time.

*Read more below to determine which option is best for you:*

- **Emails and Letters:** Written messages are an effective way to frame the issues that matter to you – our talking points can help you get started, but personal stories can create a real impact. When sending an email or letter, include your name, address, and contact information so members and their staff know who you are and how to reach you. Keep in mind that it may take a few weeks for an office to receive a written letter and respond.
- **Social Media:** Reach members of Congress instantly with clear, consistent messages and calls to action on platforms like X and Facebook. These engagements can be particularly impactful leading up to key votes or surrounding time-sensitive issues. Be sure to indicate that you're a constituent, tag your member in your post, and follow your member's account to stay up to date on their priorities and position.
- **In-Person Visits:** Meeting directly with a member of Congress or their staff is a highly effective form of advocacy. Contact your member's scheduler and request to meet directly with a staffer and the member, if available. Clearly explain the purpose of the meeting and focus on just one or two specific surface transportation issues that are important to you. After the visit, be sure to follow up with an email or letter thanking them for their time, recapping key points, and reiterating your call to action.
- **Phone Calls:** Calling your member's district office or Capitol Hill office is a great way to make your voice heard and ask questions. While you may not speak to a member directly, their staff should know the member's position on transportation and infrastructure and be able to relay your message.