

April 16th, 2015

The Honorable James Renacci
U.S. House of Representatives
328 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Pascrell
U.S. House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Renacci, Pascrell:

We write today in support of your efforts in finding a long-term funding solution for the Highway Trust Fund through the "Bridge to Sustainable Infrastructure Act." As you know, the crumbling status of the nation's surface transportation network requires a long-term policy solution. General fund transfers provide short-term relief with little indication of a longer-term solution, which does no more than kick the can down the road.

The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii) is a non-partisan, non-profit, public policy organization dedicated to finding solutions to the many challenges our national infrastructure system faces. As the Highway Trust Fund approaches insolvency, and roads and bridges fall to even further disrepair, we thank you for your leadership on such a critically important issue.

Simply increasing the gas tax alone is not a sustainable solution to fully funding our nation's infrastructure needs. Fuel consumption will continue to decline as vehicles become more energy efficient, and the amount of electric cars and other non-gasoline and diesel powered vehicles on the road continue to increase. Further, gas prices are uncharacteristically low at the moment, but Americans need protection from increased taxes and fees on gasoline and diesel fuel if prices begin to rise back to the levels experienced in the early part of this decade.

This Bill begins an important dialog, and certainly provides the funding needed to maintain our highways and transit systems in the immediate term, and provides some funding certainty to states and builders into the future. It also creates the foundation, and an incentive structure, for Congress and the Administration to work together to find more sustainable long-term solution. Developing a solution for the short-term, while also keeping long-term goals in sight, exemplifies the type of leadership and action needed to take on this issue.

We are eager to share our ideas and work with you, your teams, and the working group created by legislation to find positive, innovative, and sustainable solutions to our nation's highway and transit funding shortfalls.

Sincerely,

Shane Skelton
Executive Director
The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure