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May 19, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leaders Pelosi, McConnell and Reid:

The American Society of Civil Engineers supports immediate enactment of H.R. 2353, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015, which would authorize highway and transit programs through the end of July. It is vitally important that the federal program not lapse while Congress works to enact a long-term, robust surface transportation authorization bill. Over the next two months, Congress should aim its sights high to deliver a multi-year bill funded above current baseline levels which is necessary to reduce the nation's bridge, road and transit infrastructure improvement backlog.

Our 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure graded the nation's bridges at a "C+" and its roads and transit systems at a "D." This evaluation makes clear that additional investment is necessary from both the public and private sector if our nation is to raise these grades. Locking-in current investment levels until as late as year 2021 would not only fail to achieve our nation's infrastructure improvement objectives, but, due to inflation and other cost pressures, would also represent a step-backwards on current funding levels provided to plan, design and deliver transportation projects.

In 2011, ASCE released our Failure to Act economic series, which outlined the implications of the nation's continued underinvestment in infrastructure. For transportation, the report found that absent increased investment, deteriorating roads, bridges and transit systems will cost each American family \$1,060 annually. In addition, the nation will lose more than 876,000 jobs annually and US exports would drop by \$28 billion by 2020. Should Congress produce a flat-funded long-term highway and transit bill, we are at risk of these figures turning from economic forecast into reality.

ASCE looks forward to working closely with Congressional leaders in the weeks ahead to craft a renewed vision for transportation in America and deliver a robust, sustainable, long-term transportation bill that will benefit our economy and improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Stevens, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE
President
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)