North American Concrete Alliance

July 16, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
Environment and Public Works Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

The North American Concrete Alliance (NACA), a coalition of twelve concrete-related trade associations, appreciates the opportunity to submit a letter for the record for today's hearing *Constructing the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill: Stakeholders' Perspectives*. Cement and concrete are critical to the construction of a range of different components of surface transportation assets in communities across the country.

As you may know, NACA is a coalition of concrete-related trade associations dedicated to addressing industry-wide priorities in the areas of research, education, and government affairs. The cement and concrete industry, directly and indirectly, employs approximately 600,000 people in our country, and our collective industries contribute over $100 billion to our economy. Not only are cement and concrete essential construction materials and basic components of our nation's surface transportation infrastructure, but our members rely on a well-functioning transportation system to efficiently move our product to market. Specifically, our members rely on a well-functioning freight network, including rail, waterways, and roadways.

Cement and Concrete Use in Surface Transportation

Concrete-made with cement is critical for constructing highways, bridges, tunnels, sidewalks, culvert, and mass transit systems. Due to its durability, concrete is essential for improving infrastructure resilience, especially in the face of increasing natural disasters. Understanding the role of cement and concrete in these projects is crucial for recognizing the importance of continued investment and policy support to enhance and sustain our nation's surface transportation infrastructure.

Annually, 36.1 million metric tons of cement are used to build a range of different types of transportation infrastructure. Concrete is a major material in bridge construction, with over 400,000 concrete bridges in the United States – 235,000 are built with concrete reinforcing steel and over 100,000 utilize prestressed concrete. Further, concrete pavements are a key element to our nation's road infrastructure by providing multiple pavement solutions for the needs of Federal-aid surface transportation project.

Addressing the Long-Term Solvency of the Highway Trust Fund

Critical to reauthorization of the surface transportation program is addressing the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund to ensure federal-aid highway recipients can plan, engineer and design, and build highway and transit projects across the country. The Congressional Budget

Office projects that by Fiscal Year 2028, the Highway and Transit Account accounts of the Highway Trust Fund will be exhausted, and expenditures will exceed revenue by approximately $40 billion annually by Fiscal Year 2029.

These numbers demonstrate the need for the surface transportation reauthorization to address the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. Members of NACA would support an electric vehicle fee and a hybrid vehicle fee indexed to inflation, whether at the point of sale or annually, where the revenue collected would be dedicated to the Highway Trust Fund. This would maintain the user-fee concept of the Highway Trust Fund. While the projected revenue from these fees would not cover the whole difference in authorized expenditures it is an important step to addressing the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

Resilience

Surface transportation infrastructure – including roads – built with concrete have a service life of 30 to 50 years without the need for frequent resurfacing, repairs, or patching. This longevity not only reduces the maintenance costs but also minimizes disruptions. The resilience of concrete infrastructure is vital in the face of increasing natural disasters, providing a robust infrastructure that can endure extreme weather events. An important component of improving the resilience of transportation infrastructure is the precast concrete underground infrastructure, especially as the structures often surpass 100 years of service life. The cement and concrete industry supports reauthorization of the surface transportation program maintaining a focus on investing in resilient transportation infrastructure both when it is first built and when repaired after a disaster. Doing so reduces the cost of repairing and rebuilding infrastructure after a disaster.

Bridge Investments

One on three bridges nationwide require repair or replacement, underscoring the need for continued investment in bridge investments. As part of this it is important to invest in large bridge projects and smaller projects in states and communities across the country. Continuing bridge investments will enable states and communities to plan, design, and build critical bridge projects.

Research and Deployment

The Accelerated Implementation and Deployment of Pavement Technologies (AID-PT) program plays a vital role in transforming innovative technologies and strategies into practice. As concrete technologies evolve, AID-PT is essential for deploying these innovations in roads, bridges, and tunnels. Reauthorization should continue to support this program.

Conclusion

We appreciate the opportunity to share the perspectives of the cement and concrete industries on the importance of passing a long-term surface transportation reauthorization that advances the use of cement and concrete in the construction of surface transportation assets across the country

and the importance of addressing the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. We look forward to working with Congress to pass a long-term reauthorization of the surface transportation program.

Sincerely,

American Cement Association
American Concrete Pavement Association
American Concrete Pipe Association
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
American Concrete Pumping Association
Concrete Foundations Associations
Concrete Masonry & Hardscapes Association
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
National Precast Concrete Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute
Tilt-Up Concrete Association