



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
URL: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

October 20, 2015

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TOM COCHRAN

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
House Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, I want to convey our support for the "Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015," legislation that provides for the long-term renewal of the nation's surface transportation law.

In developing this bipartisan package, we recognize the constraints before you in crafting this multi-year commitment, and we appreciate your many efforts to preserve the core elements of current law while seeking to strengthen the role of mayors and other local elected officials in delivering transportation projects so vital to our local areas and, ultimately, to our national economy.

The Conference is pleased that additional funding will be allocated to all urbanized and local areas under the Surface Transportation Program. We remain hopeful that the proposed STP Set-Aside to local areas will include proportional obligation authority, as current law now provides for all other STP funding allocated by formula to local areas. We applaud your efforts to provide a stronger funding commitment to the repair of bridges on the Federal-Aid-System, making all such facilities eligible for funding under the National Highway Performance Program. Finally, we support provisions that allow mayors and other elected officials to continue to represent their transit agencies on MPO boards. At the same time, we have concerns about limitations on the use of flexible highway program funds for local transit investments, such as new starts or fixed guideway state of good repair projects, and we encourage you to revisit this issue as the legislation moves forward.

The Conference of Mayors commends you for your leadership on this legislation and supports your efforts to move this important legislation forward this year.

Very truly yours,

Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director