

**Talking Points to Congress**  
**Financial Relief for State Departments of Transportation**  
**Highway Reauthorization Bill as Platform for National Economic Recovery and Growth**  
**April 20, 2020**

**GOALS**

- There are two separate issues that Congress must address:
  - Providing state DOTs immediate financial relief in order to prevent major disruptions in their ability to deliver their capital highway construction program and employee workers.
  - Enact a multi-year surface transportation authorization bill with increased investments to revitalize the economy, including providing jobs.

**GENERAL TALKING POINTS**

- During the pandemic, the asphalt pavement industry continues to work, providing jobs and improving highways and roads.
- The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [updated guidance \(version 3.0\) on Essential Workers](#) includes:
  - Workers who support the construction, maintenance, or rehabilitation of critical infrastructure.
  - Workers supporting construction materials production, testing laboratories, material delivery services, and construction inspection.
- Our companies follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and have implemented protocols to keep workers healthy and safe on the job site.
- Safety for our workers at the job site is paramount.

**REVENUE BACKSTOP**

- Recent AASHTO survey indicates impact of COVID-19 on state revenues may be as high as 45% over the next 18 months.
- All state DOT's will face challenges of bringing projects to bid letting and construction and paying contractors.
- State DOTs are already enacting hiring freezes, and project delays and cancellations will result in job losses in the private sector.
- AASHTO is requesting \$16.7 billion in 2020 and \$33.3 billion for FY21 in order to maintain current highway construction program. The request is about preservation of the existing program.
- *NAPA supports AASHTO's request and urges Congress to pass Federal financial support as part of the next emergency relief package.*

## HIGHWAY REAUTHORIZATION

- Transportation investment [boosts the nation's economy](#) in the short-term by creating jobs and in the long-term will enhance economic competitiveness, stimulate sustained job growth, improve access and mobility, improve traffic safety, reduce travel delays, and improve road and bridge conditions.
- According to the Department of Transportation Conditions and Performance Report, the nation's highway and bridge backlog is at \$786 billion due to decades of underinvestment.
- President Trump, the Senate Environment Public Works Committee, and House Democrats all propose significant, but varied increases in highway investment.
- *NAPA calls on Congress to complete a multi-year reauthorization bill with significant increases in investment well before the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 deadline.*