

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

June 30, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

We are laser-focused on speeding up project delivery and achieving concrete outcomes for our constituents. We write to express our strong support for a forward-looking surface transportation reauthorization bill that gets projects built cheaper and faster for the American people. The status quo isn't working:

- The cost of building a mile of highway has tripled over the last 50 years, even after adjusting for inflation. (Source: [Foreign Affairs](#))
- The most extensive form of environmental review, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), takes an average of 1,793 days to complete. More than 25% of projects take over six years to get through the process. (Sources: [CEQ](#), [CGO](#))
- In the 1970s, the average EIS was just a few pages long. Today, the average EIS is a staggering 1,703 pages. (Source: [IFP](#))

As you draft the next surface transportation reauthorization bill, we urge you to include provisions in the bill that limit unnecessary process, reform overly burdensome environmental review, cut excessive red tape, and remove barriers to housing construction.

Here are some examples of provisions that support these goals:

1. **Speed Up Infrastructure Delivery by Improving the Permitting Fast Track** — Broaden project eligibility, reduce litigation by adopting a “harmless error” legal standard, reduce the statute of limitations, and establish a backstop time limit for major projects in the pre-existing permitting fast lane, FAST-41.
2. **Accelerate Low Impact Projects by Streamlining Categorical Exclusions** — Clarify thresholds for creating exclusions, require agencies to use checklists to simplify eligibility, and limit judicial review to ensure that low-impact projects can move forward without delay.
3. **End Redundant Permitting & Paperwork** — Exempt projects that go through other environmental review permitting processes from also going through NEPA, aligning statute with existing legal precedent.
4. **Create a De Minimis Exemption** — Establish a categorical exclusion for small projects or projects with minimal federal involvement, allowing them to bypass lengthy environmental reviews.

5. **Hold Highways & Transit to the Same Permitting Standard** — Allow transit agencies to conduct preliminary work, such as buying land, just like highway projects, reducing costs and speeding delivery.
6. **Build More Housing Near Transit** — Make the Capital Investment Grants program more fiscally responsible by boosting project applications that include pro-housing actions, ensuring we're funding transportation projects that will get used.

Unlocking America's economic potential can be achieved by accelerating construction, eliminating unnecessary delays, and clearing the way for smarter, faster infrastructure investment.

We appreciate your leadership and your continued commitment to advancing infrastructure that serves all Americans. We stand ready to support your efforts and work collaboratively to ensure the next surface transportation bill delivers lasting progress for our constituents and our country.

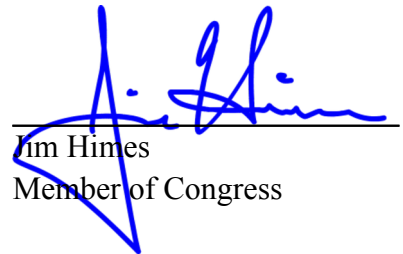
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



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Chuck Edwards  
Member of Congress



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Rob Bresnahan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



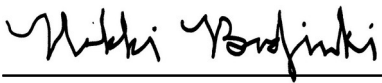
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Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



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Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress



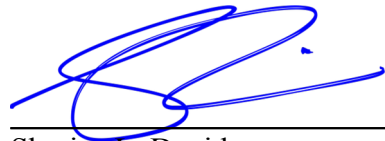
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



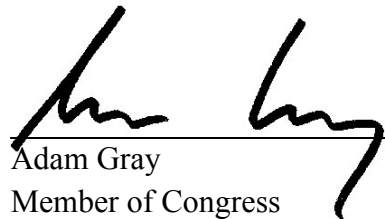
Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



Gabe Evans  
Member of Congress



Adam Gray  
Member of Congress



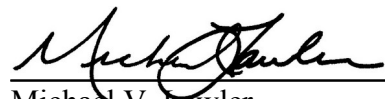
Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



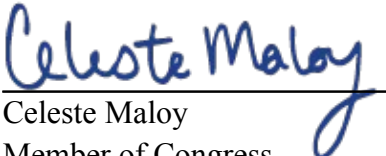
Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress




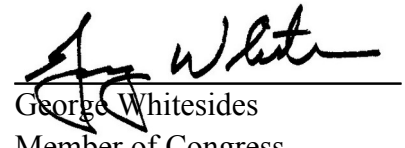
Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Jen A. Riggans  
Member of Congress

  
Celeste Maloy  
Member of Congress

  
David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress

  
George Whitesides  
Member of Congress