



# Roadway Infrastructure Safety Coalition

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March 5, 2010

AAA

American Highway Users  
Alliance

American Public Works  
Association

American Society of Civil  
Engineers

American Society of  
Highway Engineers

American Traffic Safety  
Services Association

National Association of  
Counties

National Association of  
County Engineers

National Association of  
Development  
Organizations

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe,

The Roadway Infrastructure Safety Coalition (RISC) truly appreciates the work that you and your staff are currently undertaking to draft a new, comprehensive and transformative transportation authorization bill. As you focus on transportation-related hearings for the month of March, RISC would like to suggest that a hearing focusing on roadway safety infrastructure issues would be a timely and important matter to address.

RISC feels that infrastructure safety should be a top priority in the next authorization. Approximately 40,000 individuals die each year on America's roadways. There is a need to shine a spotlight on the low cost solutions that exist and how those ideas can move us toward zero deaths on our roadways. Investments in roadway infrastructure fix our crumbling roads and bridges, create jobs, and stimulate the economy. However, at the end of the day, there is a moral obligation for safety infrastructure investments on our roads: we must save lives. All other reasons are truly noble, but saving lives and reducing serious injuries is our call to action to protect our loved ones and all Americans.

Safety has been touted as a top priority time and time again during transportation discussions this authorization cycle. RISC feels it is pertinent that we come together and discuss safety-related proposals and how those proposals can help establish performance targets to reduce deaths and serious injuries, making every American safer on our roadways.

As you develop the new authorization bill, RISC wanted to reiterate our top priorities for the transportation authorization:

- Increase the High Risk Rural Roads program to at least \$1 billion annually and include language in the bill that would create a process by which dangerous rural roads can receive High Risk Rural Roads funding regardless of who owns the roadway. Additionally, we hope a process is created for states to report annually by both ownership and functional classification on where federal-aid highway funding is being obligated. Further, we would recommend funding for data collection systems that states can utilize to collect complete and effective

Hon. Boxer and Inhofe

March 5, 2010

Page 2

data for the Highway Safety Improvement Program and High Risk Rural Roads Program.

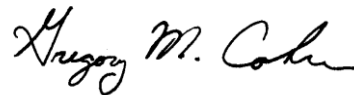
- Increase funding for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), with a target of 10% of all highway dollars.
- Reserve HSIP funding exclusively for saving lives and make it non-transferrable to other programs
- Require states to establish a process by which local government entities will receive federal and/or state financial assistance to meet with obligations, if any, arising under a federal rule establishing a national standard for maintained minimum levels of retroreflectivity for traffic signs or pavement markings.
- Establish a separate obligation limit for the HSIP

As the Environment and Public Works leadership has stated, the transportation needs of this country are at a critical juncture. The time has come to have a serious, wide-ranging, and thought provoking hearing on transportation safety proposals for the authorization. It is our hope that such a hearing could be scheduled at the earliest possible date. Laura Perrotta with ATSSA will be following up with you shortly. You can reach Laura at [laura.perrotta@atssa.com](mailto:laura.perrotta@atssa.com) or 202-454-5246.

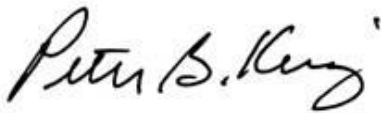
Sincerely,



Chris Plaushin  
AAA



Greg Cohen  
American Highway Users Alliance



Peter B. King  
American Public Works Association

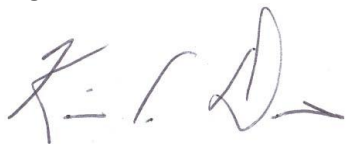


Patrick J. Natale  
American Society of Civil Engineers

Hon. Boxer and Inhofe

March 5, 2010

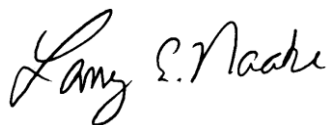
Page 3



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