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January 27, 2017

Dear Representative:

The 115th Congress should move expeditiously to finalize FY 2017 appropriations for the Department of Transportation at the levels established by the 2015 "Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act" to allow full distribution to states of already authorized highway and transit funding.

Lack of quick action undermines the ability of state departments of transportation to put their complete list of projects out to bid for the spring construction season. In addition, including this appropriation as part of a Continuing Resolution to fund the entire federal government at FY 2016 levels for the remainder of FY 2017 would lead to a cut of over two percent from the funding levels for both highway and transit programs included in the FAST Act.

In addition to authorizing modest surface transportation investment increases, the FAST Act ensures the Highway Trust Fund has the resources necessary to support those funding levels. Furthermore, the measure earned overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers. As such, there is no functional reason to delay the highway and public transportation investment levels contained in the House and Senate-proposed FY 2017 transportation appropriation bills.

Prior to enactment of the FAST Act, a series of short-term extensions and Highway Trust Fund revenue crises created years of uncertainty about future federal-aid funding, resulting in project delays and cancellations, higher costs and deferring of improvements affecting safety, efficiency and economic development. The FAST Act seemingly put an end to this inefficiency and gave states the certainty they needed to move forward with long term transportation improvements.

Please get the new Congress off to a productive start and show the American public that you intend to make good on campaign pledges to work together in the best interest of the country. Please complete action now on a fully funded FY 2017 transportation appropriations measure.

Sincerely

The Transportation Construction Coalition