



July 21, 2015

Senator Roger Wicker
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Cory Booker
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Wicker and Booker:

On behalf of the local government community and its elected and appointed transportation officials, we thank you for your leadership to direct additional transportation resources to local decision-makers.



We fully support the Wicker-Booker amendment to increase the total funding available for the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and increase the portion of STP funds distributed to local areas by population. Local elected officials are well-positioned to deploy this funding on a wide range of projects that increase mobility for the citizens they serve. Regions, counties, and cities throughout the country are unique; STP funds acknowledge this by providing the most flexible funding to local governments, which own and operate 78 percent of the nation's road miles, 43 percent of the nation's federal-aid highway miles, 50 percent of the nation's bridge inventory, and operate a majority of the nation's transit systems.



In addition to increasing funding for local governments under STP, the Wicker-Booker amendment will take important steps to increase the accountability and transparency of STP. State DOTs that do not currently suballocate STP dollars to areas under 200,000 in population would, under this carefully crafted amendment, be required to conduct a process that will provide these areas an opportunity to submit projects to their state for funding consideration.



Again, we thank you for your leadership and for introducing this proposal. Your amendment strengthens the partnership between the federal government and local governments across the country by ensuring that federal surface transportation legislation provides additional resources to regions and local governments. By better aligning STP funding with the share of the nation's transportation system that is under local ownership, we know that your amendment is crucial to ensuring the economic vitality and competitiveness of our nation. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that this critical amendment becomes law.

Sincerely,

DeLania Hardy
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan
Planning Organizations

Joe McKinney
Executive Director
National Association
of Development Organizations

Matthew Chase
Executive Director
National Association
of Counties

Joanna L. Turner
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Clarence E. Anthony
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of Cities

Tom Cochran
CEO & Executive Director
The United States
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