

Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

We, the undersigned chambers of commerce from across the Commonwealth, write to urge you to address the urgent need for a long-term, strategic, and modern funding solution for our transportation infrastructure.

Transportation infrastructure is a critical priority for practically every sector of Pennsylvania's economy. The movement of goods, services, and people is essential not only to maintaining current economic activity, but also to ensuring that our state remains competitive in attracting new businesses and emerging industries. Maintaining modern, efficient, sustainable, and safe transportation systems is a core function of government and funding these systems in the Commonwealth requires constructive partnership between all levels of government and the private sector.

The stark reality is that our transportation infrastructure is aging and increasingly unable to meet the demands of the 21st century. Pennsylvania's geographic significance on both north-south and east-west shipping corridors, as well as the state's climate, contributes to wear and tear and poses a challenge to the design, construction, and upkeep of the state's heavily traveled roads and bridges. The need for substantial investment in maintenance and modernization is clear.

Current funding mechanisms, primarily reliant on liquid fuels taxes, are becoming insufficient as vehicle fuel efficiency improves and the adoption of alternative fuel vehicles accelerates. The legislature's recent enactment of a flat fee on electric vehicles to replace the Alternative Fuels Tax is commendable and must be part of a broader, comprehensive funding strategy.

We strongly urge the General Assembly to adopt a funding plan that is forward-looking and adaptable as transportation systems and technologies evolve. Policymakers should also consider innovative approaches to appropriately fund public transit, which is key for moving commuters, residents, and visitors throughout the Commonwealth.

We further urge lawmakers to focus on policies to ensure these funds are utilized efficiently and effectively, maximizing the resources directed toward infrastructure needs. We advocate for the streamlining of regulatory processes across regional jurisdictions to reduce unnecessary burdens and costs; strategic public-private partnerships, and other reforms to laws that unnecessarily increase costs.

Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness depends on a transportation system that is modern, efficient, sustainable, and safe.

We stand ready to work with you to develop and ultimately implement a modern transportation funding system. Together, we can ensure that Pennsylvania's transportation infrastructure supports a thriving economy and improves the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,