



September 8, 2020

The Honorable Chip Roy (TX-21)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1319 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Roy:

The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce is made up of 1,850 area businesses who together employ 500,000 people in San Antonio and the surrounding region. Our mission is to propel business success by engaging business owners, policymakers, and community leaders to address issues important to San Antonio, the region and our State. On behalf of our 1,850 business members, we would like to express our support for a Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that includes an extension of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Investing in America's infrastructure is essential to our nation's economic recovery from this global pandemic. An infrastructure bill will help rebuild our nations crumbling infrastructure, will increase the flow of commerce on our roadways, cut red tape, speed up project delivery and most importantly create jobs. Furthermore, we cannot afford to allow the FAST to expire during these unprecedented times. Prior to the pandemic the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) would become insolvent by mid-2021. With less Americans on the road this year, the HTF is anticipated to reach insolvency much sooner than originally anticipated. Now is the time for Congress to pass a meaningful Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that includes an extension of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

We have had ongoing discussions with members in the transportation, broadband, energy, and water industry. Business leaders from each industry have identified key provisions they would like to see in an infrastructure bill. We ask that you consider including the following provisions in a meaningful Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill:

Transportation:

- Federal highway funding beyond normal FY 2021 levels “as backstop” funding for state departments of transportations to address loss of gas tax revenue due the pandemic and eliminate donor state status for Texas.

- Future federal formula funding for transit be available to all eligible agencies, without limiting regions that do not meet certain population thresholds.

Broadband & Digital Divide:

- Federal funding to deploy broadband infrastructure in homes, schools, and libraries to help bridge the digital divide.

Water:

- Providing appropriate funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) Construction account to carry out the backlog of authorized water resources development projects such as flood risk reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration and navigation projects.
- Providing appropriate funding authorizations for each the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs for fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

Energy:

- Allowing for an election of direct payments of IRC Section 48 investment tax credits for qualified renewable energy property.
- Reinstating the ability to issue advanced refunding bonds and action to protect current and future Build America Bonds (BAB) payments from being subject to sequestration.
- Proposals to create comparable tax incentives to provide a more level playing field for public power utilities to directly invest in renewable energy projects.

Investing in America's infrastructure is a vital component of our nation's economic recovery. Each of the provisions listed above would help rebuild San Antonio's infrastructure and boost our local economy that has been adversely affected by the coronavirus. Please feel free to contact me directly at 210-229-2170 or by email at [rperez@sachamber.org](mailto:rperez@sachamber.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your service to our great nation.

Respectfully,



Richard Perez  
President & CEO

Respectfully,



Melisa Montemayor, VP  
HNTB  
2020 Co-Chair,  
Infrastructure Committee

Respectfully,



Timothy Heinle  
OCI Solar Power  
2020 Co-Chair,  
Infrastructure Committee