



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

May 11, 2015

Mr. John R. Cooper  
Transportation Director  
Alabama Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 303050  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Director Cooper:

As you know, the most recent Congressional extension of the current surface transportation authorization, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, is set to expire on May 31, 2015, less than three weeks from now.

Unless Congress acts prior to this date, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be unable to make new obligations of Federal-aid funds for your department's highway projects. Furthermore, unlike last summer's cash shortfall when States faced the prospect of delayed payments, under a lapse in authorization, reimbursements on all projects will be halted completely, not simply delayed.

More specifically, as you may recall from the two-day surface authorization lapse that occurred in March 2010, while revenue will still be deposited in the Highway Trust Fund, FHWA will not have the authority to provide States with any additional contract authority for new projects. Furthermore, FHWA will be forced to furlough non-essential employees and will therefore be unable to process obligations or reimbursement requests, or provide technical support to projects. For all intents and purposes, Federal support for highway infrastructure programs will stop.

In an effort to provide long-term stability, the Administration's GROW AMERICA proposal and Fiscal Year 2016 budget request call on Congress to enact a six-year, \$478 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal in an effort to move away from the uncertainty caused by short-term extensions that undermine State transportation programs. Not only does this proposal provide States with extended funding certainty, it also increases overall transportation investment by 45 percent, providing funding growth and smart policy reforms to strengthen the American economy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Anthony R. Foxx', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.  
Anthony R. Foxx