

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to share our concerns with guidance published in a December 16, 2021, memo from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)¹ for the prioritization of funding under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). According to this document, the FHWA will avoid using funds for “highway expansions for additional general purpose capacity.” Many growing communities in our state need additional road capacity and failing to invest in these communities will hurt workers and families.

The memo makes clear that FHWA will deprioritize, “projects that add new general purpose travel lanes serving single occupancy vehicles.”² Further, the memo makes clear that bicycle and pedestrian paths are excluded from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review while stating that projects that expand highway capacity, “require more scrutiny under NEPA.”³

Although much of our existing infrastructure needs to be repaired, in deprioritizing road expansion and imposing uneven NEPA requirements, the FHWA guidance punishes economically successful state and local entities that need to expand their infrastructure systems.

We do not need an activist, top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to infrastructure investments. Local and state transportation agencies must have the ability to make the decisions that best fit their communities’ unique circumstances. We therefore ask you to rescind this misguided memo and prioritize the actual needs of communities and not special interests located in Washington D.C.

Sincerely,



BRYAN STEEL
Member of Congress



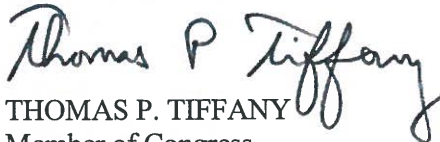
SCOTT FITZGERALD
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GLENN GROTHMAN
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MIKE GALLAGHER
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THOMAS P. TIFFANY
Member of Congress

¹ Memorandum from Stephanie Pollack, Deputy Administration, FHWA, to Associate Administrators et al, https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/building_a_better_america-policy_framework.cfm

² Id

³ Id

Cc: The Honorable Mitchell J. Landrieu