



Surface Transportation Reauthorization Advocacy Toolkit

NACo's Surface Transportation Reauthorization Advocacy Toolkit provides county officials with a roadmap to advocate for their county's transportation and infrastructure needs for the next surface transportation reauthorization package. The toolkit highlights successful strategies and best practices to engage with Congress, the Administration and the public on the importance of county infrastructure and the need for direct federal support.

Counties play a major role in our nation's infrastructure network, owning and maintaining 44 percent of our nation's roads and 38 percent of bridges. Understanding this responsibility, county governments invest over \$146 billion into our nation's infrastructure and over \$60 billion into transportation annually. Counties also rely on federal funding to support these vast networks. Under the current surface transportation law, counties and other local governments receive a disproportionately small portion of federal funds. This has left critical infrastructure in continued need of support. The next surface transportation reauthorization provides Congress with the opportunity to balance federal infrastructure spending to ensure that our infrastructure and transportation systems can run smoothly and efficiently.

Our Advocacy Toolkit includes information on how to:



Schedule a Meeting with Your Member of Congress: How to schedule a meeting and talking points are included in this toolkit.



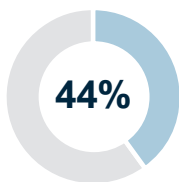
Write Your Members of Congress: A sample letter to Congress is included in this toolkit.



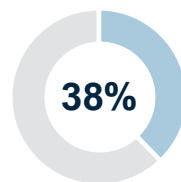
Publish a Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed: A sample Op-Ed along with talking points on the importance of the county infrastructure to help you write your own.



Engage Congress Members on Social Media: Demonstrate how counties play a key role in owning and maintaining our nation's infrastructure through pictures and stories to encourage Congress to support county priorities in the next surface transportation reauthorization bill. Remember to tag your members of Congress in your social media posts. Sample tweets are provided in this toolkit.



Counties own and maintain **44% of America's roads.** In total, **1.8 million miles** are county owned roads, where the majority of trips both start and end.



Counties own and maintain **38% of bridges.**



Counties invest more than **\$146 billion** into our nation's infrastructure.

Despite county responsibility and investments, chronic underinvestment has led to county-owned roads and bridges being more likely to be in poor condition than state-owned assets.

- **14 percent of federal funding:** counties and other local governments only received 14 percent of federal formula transportation funds
- **Limited local infrastructure funding:** counties have limited revenue authority under state preemption and often lack the ability to raise infrastructure funds



Scan the QR code to access
the full Surface Transportation
Reauthorization Advocacy Toolkit

In the next surface transportation reauthorization bill, Congress should increase county access to formula funding to ensure counties have the resources we need to maintain our infrastructure.

- Strengthen the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program
- Add suballocation requirements to programs like the Bridge Formula Program (BFP) and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
- Maintain key discretionary grant programs that facilitate direct, federal investments in county-led projects
- Streamline applications to save applicants and agencies time
- Improve the planning and project selection process to ensure that suballocated federal funds are used for locally led projects, as the law intends
- Empower and fund regional transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) to ensure that rural areas have equal access to high-quality, federally funded planning
- Reform federal permitting requirements to speed up timelines for repairs, projects within the existing right-of-way and projects focused on safety