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December 14, 2020

The Honorable Joe Biden
President-Elect, United States of America
Biden-Harris Presidential Transition Team
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20405

The Honorable Kamala Harris
Vice President-Elect, United States of America
Biden-Harris Presidential Transition Team
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris:

We congratulate you on being elected to serve as the next President and Vice President of the United States. Leading local government organizations like ours look forward to working with you as you begin your transition and establish your Administration.

Our members serve in significant roles on behalf of their communities, including critical coordination for the provision of transportation services to support public health and the basic functions of the economy during this time of unprecedented challenges from COVID-19. We share your goals of investing in America's infrastructure, creating stronger communities to raise up all Americans, and meeting the nation's emerging challenges

We firmly believe unlocking the potential of partnership with local governments will be the most important investment your administration can make to meet these goals. As former local officials yourselves, you know the value of a strong intergovernmental partnership, and we stand ready to work with you as your Administration identifies transportation policy and investment priorities that will promote recovery and begin to rebuild. Cities, counties, and townships own and maintain 3.1 million miles of America's roads, making up more than three quarters of the national road network, and we are fully capable and ready to partner with you in a shared vision of a more connected, safe, accessible, and sustainable future. Our organizations work on behalf of local and regional government entities that carry out the transportation policy and planning requirements resulting from Congressional legislation and Federal regulations as well as the allocation and investment of federal funds. Our members also coordinate with State Departments of Transportation to ensure that federal investments are spent on transportation projects that will result in the improved safety, accessibility, and mobility for all Americans, as well as improvements in freight mobility.

The nation's 2015 multi-modal surface transportation bill law (FAST Act) has expired. Congress and the Administration have less than ten months to sign a new bill into law before the current extension expires. As you begin the transition process, our organizations wish to inform you of some of our shared priorities as they relate to the Administration's actions and recommendations for the next surface transportation bill:

- **Leverage and incentivize local investments by expanding funding for federal programs that reach communities, workers, and jobs.** We ask for your support of increased federal investments in regional and local transportation, specifically through effective and flexible

programs like the *Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP)*. This program apportions critical federal funding that we match with local resources to carry out many eligible activities across the transportation system.

- **Respond to changes from COVID-19 and rebuild America's infrastructure.** Along with the rest of the nation, our members are contending with the extensive fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been working quickly to provide safe transportation options during the pandemic – from transit to bike lanes to roads and rail. Ridership and miles driven are down significantly, but the essential need for service and better maintenance are as high as ever. Supplemental support for transit, transportation planning, and safety projects through programs like the *Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)* could be put to use in communities.
- **Build more sustainable transportation system with solid plans and funding that matches those goals.** The Biden-Harris platform leans into sustainable transportation including electrification and investments in public transportation that reduce emissions like non-motorized projects that can be as simple as a sidewalk and as complex as electric charging and congestion pricing. Programs like the *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program* and the newer *Federal Transit Administration's Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) initiative* have great potential to meet these goals.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the details of these shared priorities. **We specifically request a meeting with the Administration policy and transition team on the sustainable transportation and electrification policies under consideration.** We look forward to learning more about the initiatives that you will pursue in support of a safe, accessible, and sustainable transportation network.

Again, on behalf of the undersigned organizations, we offer our congratulations, and we stand ready to work with you as you move forward with federal infrastructure and transportation policy and investment priorities.

Respectfully,



Bill Keyrouze
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan
Planning Organizations



Matthew Chase
Executive Director
National Association
of Counties



Joe McKinney
Executive Director
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of Development Organizations



Clarence E. Anthony
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