

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
January 25, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to formally request an in-person meeting with you to discuss the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Major Bridge Public-Private Partnership (P3) Initiative, which aims to establish tolls along nine bridges across Pennsylvania.

As you may know, the Pennsylvania P3 Board approved the Major Bridge Initiative on November 12, 2020, to use the P3 delivery model for major bridges in need of rehabilitation or replacement. Unfortunately, the board has opted to pursue tolling these public assets, through engaging with private multi-national concessionaires, which will place an undue burden upon the traveling public and create a number of safety issues for local municipalities due to diversion.

While there is no doubt Pennsylvania requires a reliable funding mechanism to maintain and replace existing infrastructure, this plan remains wildly unpopular with the public, transportation industry stakeholders, and the very legislative body that authorized the creation of the P3 Board. This past November, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed a measure requiring legislative approval of specific proposals to add tolls. The bill will require PennDOT to publicly advertise toll proposals, take public comment and seek approval from both the governor and the legislature. Unfortunately, PennDOT has not conducted themselves in a manner that meets the minimum expectation of public engagement, and we remain concerned about the lack of transparency surrounding the tolling proposals.

In addition to more than a \$1.5 billion budget surplus, Pennsylvania is expected to receive more than \$18 billion from the recent federal infrastructure package, including \$1.6 billion for bridge replacements. With these windfalls, we believe PennDOT should exhaust all funding options prior to planning a tax on the traveling public.

Given that PennDOT and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have indicated interest in seeking federal financing to move ahead with these projects, we respectfully request an in-person meeting with you in the near future to discuss these projects further. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA-15)  
Member of Congress



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Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14)  
Member of Congress



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Fred Keller (PA-12)  
Member of Congress



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Dan Meuser (PA-09)  
Member of Congress



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John Joyce, M.D. (PA-13)  
Member of Congress

Cc: Ms. Allison Rusnak, Director, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Legislative Affairs and Policy Comms.  
Mr. Tim Arnade, Team Leader, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Legislative Affairs and Policy Comms.