

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

May 21, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20150

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20150

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. As the committee prepares to consider surface transportation reauthorization, I write to ask that the legislation make significant investments in Arizona's bridge infrastructure, to both support our state's aging bridge infrastructure, and support investments in bridge improvement and expansion projects.

Arizona has more than 8,320 bridges, which are used by more than 100 million vehicles a day. While Arizona's bridge infrastructure is comparatively newer than other states, the Arizona Department of Transportation has identified more than 1,789 bridges requiring repairs, at a cost of nearly \$1.5 billion. At the same time, Arizona's population is rapidly growing, making it critical that we not just maintain the bridges we have, but grow our bridge infrastructure to facilitate future growth.

To address this issue, I request that the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization legislation considered by the committee establish a bridge investment program to award competitive grants to certain governmental entities for projects that update bridge infrastructure and improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of travel over bridges. This investment program could facilitate critical projects in Arizona, including the Arizona Department of Transportation's plan to replace the Gila River bridges on I-10 between Phoenix and Casa Grande, the city of Show Low's Scott Ranch Road bridge project, the Rio de Flag bridge rehabilitation project, and countless other projects throughout Arizona.

Therefore, as the committee considers legislation to reauthorize surface transportation programs, I ask that the committee authorize a program to provide funding and resources for small, medium, and large bridge projects.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly
United States Senator