



NACE

Federal Priorities

QUICK FACTS

- **Owning more roads and bridges than any other government entity, counties play a critical role in our nation's transportation system.**
- **Counties own and maintain 46% of all public roads and maintain 38% of all public bridges.**

ACTION NEEDED:

We urge Members of Congress to support county transportation and infrastructure priorities in any new infrastructure legislation presented by Congress.

BACKGROUND:

Counties play a critical role in the nation's transportation system, owning 46 percent of all public roads (compared to the 32 percent of public roads owned by cities and townships, 19 percent by states, and 3 percent by the federal government) and 38 percent of the nation's bridge inventory, and are involved with a third of the nation's transit systems and airports that connect residents, communities and businesses.

As Congressional leaders outline priorities to address in an infrastructure package, of vital importance will be policy positions that include sustainable funding for large-scale construction and maintenance projects. Also crucial are alternative revenue sources for highways and transit, harbors and airports, as well as regulatory reform that addresses a streamlined permit approval process.

NACE believes that counties should be recognized as major owners of transportation infrastructure in any potential package presented by Congress or the administration. Furthermore, federal funding levels and local authority should adequately reflect the county role in the nation's transportation system. NACE believes that a user-pay approach should continue to be the cornerstone of federal transportation funding.

New, dedicated federal funding must be part of any new infrastructure package with direct funding opportunities available to local governments. As the largest owner of road and bridge infrastructure, counties cannot always depend on state entities to allocate appropriate resources to local projects.

- **Ensure long-term solvency of the highway trust fund:** In order to maintain a robust infrastructure network, the Highway Trust Fund must remain solvent. NACE advocates for an "all tools in the toolbox" approach to accomplishing this, including increased usage of user-fees for infrastructure.
- **Streamlining of the federal process:** NACE supports a streamlining of the federal process, helping reduce project delays resulting from duplicative reviews, permits, and procedures. These reforms can also improve public safety by expediting repairs and improvements to disaster-affected infrastructure quicker. In addition, the absence of burdensome bureaucratic red-tape can assist in increasing the purchasing power of our existing funding and any new sources.

