

Mississippi Association of Supervisors

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URGE YOUR U.S. SENATORS TO SUPPORT CRITICAL AMENDMENT TO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BILL

Last night, the U.S. Senate continued work on H.R. 22, the legislative vehicle being used to move the chamber's six-year surface transportation authorization bill known as the DRIVE Act. The long-term bill would replace the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), which is scheduled to expire July 31, 2015 and includes meaningful policy reforms for counties, including increased and designated funding for county-owned bridges, safety reforms for high-risk rural roads and more.

Senators are now working to complete action on their surface transportation bill with final action on the legislation expected to occur over the coming days. Therefore, **NACo asks counties to urge your Senators to support the Wicker-Booker Amendment #2289 to the DRIVE Act that would help county-owned highways and bridges in the final surface transportation bill.**

As the owners of 78 percent of the nation's road miles and 50 percent of the national bridge inventory, local governments play a critical role in America's surface transportation network. The Wicker-Booker Amendment #2289 would increase funding for our country's locally-owned infrastructure and provide more federal transportation dollars to local decision-makers who are best suited to represent the needs of their communities and regions.

At this time, the best way to deliver this message is by calling your senators' D.C. offices and asking to speak with their transportation staff.

To co-sponsor Wicker-Booker Amendment #2289, your senators' staff should contact:

Contact for Republican Senators:

Ellen Beares

Office of Sen. Roger Wicker

Email: Ellen_Beaeres@wicker.senate.gov

Phone: (202) 224-6253

Contact for Democratic Senators:

Matt Thomson

Office of Sen. Cory Booker

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July 21, 2015

Senator Roger Wicker
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Cory Booker
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Wicker and Booker:

On behalf of the local government community and its elected and appointed transportation officials, we thank you for your leadership to direct additional transportation resources to local decision-makers.



We fully support the Wicker-Booker amendment to increase the total funding available for the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and increase the portion of STP funds distributed to local areas by population. Local elected officials are well-positioned to deploy this funding on a wide range of projects that increase mobility for the citizens they serve. Regions, counties, and cities throughout the country are unique; STP funds acknowledge this by providing the most flexible funding to local governments, which own and operate 78 percent of the nation's road miles, 43 percent of the nation's federal-aid highway miles, 50 percent of the nation's bridge inventory, and operate a majority of the nation's transit systems.



In addition to increasing funding for local governments under STP, the Wicker-Booker amendment will take important steps to increase the accountability and transparency of STP. State DOTs that do not currently suballocate STP dollars to areas under 200,000 in population would, under this carefully crafted amendment, be required to conduct a process that will provide these areas an opportunity to submit projects to their state for funding consideration.



Again, we thank you for your leadership and for introducing this proposal. Your amendment strengthens the partnership between the federal government and local governments across the country by ensuring that federal surface transportation legislation provides additional resources to regions and local governments. By better aligning STP funding with the share of the nation's transportation system that is under local ownership, we know that your amendment is crucial to ensuring the economic vitality and competitiveness of our nation. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that this critical amendment becomes law.



Sincerely,

DeLania Hardy
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan
Planning Organizations

Joe McKinney
Executive Director
National Association
of Development Organizations

Matthew Chase
Executive Director
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of Counties

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