

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State Asphalt Pavement Associations Unified in Support of AASHTO's Request for Highway Funding Relief**

*Due to COVID-19's negative impact on transportation revenues, states are delaying and cancelling projects, making federal highway funding crucial to protecting jobs and maintaining our roadways.*

Greenbelt, Maryland — In a [letter](#) to members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, the State Asphalt Pavement Associations Inc. (SAPAs), collectively and individually, supported the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in their request for funds to stimulate the highway construction industry. State projections show drastic dips in transportation revenue as a result of a 50 percent vehicle traffic decline. In certain states, toll road traffic is down 67 percent. Specific impacts include individual state transportation revenue losses as high as 45 percent in the next 18 months.

“The highway system is one of the core values of our country, and we are behind in keeping up with the system’s needs,” said Larry E. Patrick, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Asphalt Pavement Association and SAPA Chairman. “Much like the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progressive Administration programs during the Great Depression, what better way is there to get people back to work than to stimulate the economy and take care of the investments America has made in our highways, interstates, and bridges?”

The construction season is also impacted by the need for Congress to reauthorize the FAST Act authorization before the Sept. 30, 2020, deadline, when the Act expires. The backlog of highway and bridge investment needs now totals nearly \$800 billion. That’s why the SAPAs also support a multi-year transportation bill reauthorization in their letter.

Last month, the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) [sent a similar letter](#) to U.S. Senate and House leaders. In tandem, NAPA launched a grassroots effort, [“Act Now to Secure and Grow America’s Highway Funding.”](#) which has already compelled more than 1,900 industry leaders to formally ask their congressional representatives for immediate financial relief for state DOTs.

“NAPA supports the SAPAs in their request for this critical funding for our very essential industry,” said NAPA President & CEO Dr. Audrey Copeland. “Asphalt paving contractors, alongside state

and local departments of transportation, are maintaining our roadways, ensuring the safety and health of our workforce, and serving the traveling public by facilitating the reliable delivery of goods.”

On May 12, 2020, House Democrats introduced the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act or the HEROES Act, which provides \$15 billion for grants to support the ongoing work of state, tribal, and territorial departments of transportation and certain local governments to mitigate the effects of coronavirus, including the salaries of staff and other administrative expenses. The HEROES Act provides nearly the full amount of \$16.7 billion requested by AASHTO for fiscal year 2020. NAPA will deliver the SAPA letter to the Congress and urge the House to approve the legislation when it comes up for a vote.

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#### **About the National Asphalt Pavement Association**

*The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) is the only trade association that exclusively represents the interests of the asphalt producer/contractor on the national level with Congress, government agencies, and other national trade and business organizations. NAPA supports an active research program designed to improve the quality of asphalt pavements and paving techniques used in the construction of roads, streets, highways, parking lots, airports, and environmental and recreational facilities. The association provides technical, educational, and marketing materials and information to its members; supplies product information to users and specifiers of paving materials; and conducts training courses. The association, which counts more than 1,100 companies as members, was founded in 1955.*

#### **About the State Asphalt Pavement Associations Inc. (SAPAs)**

*SAPA Inc. strives to represent, communicate, and collaborate on the needs of each member organization while also encouraging, where appropriate, each individual state asphalt pavement association to take opportunities to be represented individually on matters important to our entire nation and our collective infrastructure. The SAPAs include asphalt producers, asphalt refiners, paving contractors, testing labs, consulting engineers and product suppliers. SAPA members represent hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the country.*