March 17, 2021

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA), the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), and the Portland Cement Association (PCA) appreciate your support in reauthorizing the Accelerated Implementation and Deployment of Pavement Technologies (AIDPT) program.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, more than half of Federal-Aid Highway (FAH) program dollars are spent on pavements. As such, our organizations representing the main material suppliers to our nation’s highways and roads understand the important role our industries play in identifying and deploying innovative pavement solutions necessary to deliver a cost efficient and safe roadway network while, at the same time, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

ACPA, NAPA, and PCA have reviewed USC 23, Section 503, Research and Technology Development and Deployment, as it exists in current law and the proposed changes made to this section by H.R. 2, the INVEST in America Act, and S. 2302, America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA). We jointly make the following recommendations for your consideration. We believe these modest changes will strengthen and focus the AIDPT program and the proposed “Materials to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Program” that was included in the INVEST in America Act.

As the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee begins its work on a surface transportation reauthorization bill, ACPA, NAPA, and PCA support the reauthorization of the AIDPT program and the “Materials to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Program” with the following modifications:

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<tr>
<th>Text of Enclosure</th>
<th>Proposed Changes to AIDPT Program</th>
<th>Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 1, Line 16</td>
<td>Insert “in coordination with industry”</td>
<td>The AIDPT program is focused on the deployment of innovative pavement technologies. As such, collaboration with industry is key to ensure the program is producing outcomes that are deployable, useful, and achieves their objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 1, line 44</td>
<td>Strike “the construction of highways” and insert “the entire pavement life cycle.”</td>
<td>There are five pavement life cycle stages according to FHWA: materials production, construction, use, maintenance and rehabilitation, and end-of-life. This change will allow the AIDPT program to consider all stages in the pavement life cycle.</td>
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### Text of Enclosure

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<tr>
<td><strong>Page 2, Line 5-29</strong></td>
<td>Move study language to &quot;(2) Improving Highway Safety under Section 503.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Page 2, Line 33</strong></td>
<td>Strike $12,000,000 and insert $14,000,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Page 2, Line 38</strong></td>
<td>Strike “annually” in current law and replace with “once every 2 years”</td>
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### Proposed Changes to “Materials to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Program”

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<tr>
<td><strong>Page 3, Line 13</strong></td>
<td>Strike “promote sustainability” and replace with “reduce greenhouse gas emissions”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Page 3, Line 28</strong></td>
<td>Strike “production of highway materials and the construction and use of highways” and replace with “entire pavement life cycle”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Page 5, Line 25</strong></td>
<td>Add “over the entire life cycle of the pavement”</td>
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</table>

Thank you for your consideration of our joint legislative recommendations. We look forward to working with you to enact a surface transportation reauthorization bill by October 1, 2021. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us or our professional staff.

Sincerely,

Gerald F. Voigt, P.E.  
President & CEO  
American Concrete Pavement Association

Audrey Copeland, Ph.D., P.E.  
President & CEO  
National Asphalt Pavement Association

Michael Ireland  
President & CEO  
Portland Cement Association
(3) Accelerated implementation and deployment of pavement technologies.—

(A) In general.—The Secretary shall establish and implement a program under the technology and innovation deployment program to promote, implement, deploy, demonstrate, showcase, support, and document, in coordination with industry the application of innovative pavement technologies, practices, performance, and benefits.

(B) Goals.—The goals of the accelerated implementation and deployment of pavement technologies program shall include—

(i) the deployment of new, cost-effective designs, materials, recycled materials, and practices to extend the pavement life and performance and to improve user satisfaction;

(ii) the reduction of initial costs and lifecycle costs of pavements, including the costs of new construction, replacement, maintenance, and rehabilitation;

(iii) the deployment of accelerated construction techniques to increase safety and reduce construction time and traffic disruption and congestion;

(iv) the deployment of engineering design criteria and specifications for new and efficient practices, products, and materials for use in highway pavements;

(v) the deployment of new nondestructive and real-time pavement evaluation technologies and construction techniques; and

(vi) effective technology transfer and information dissemination to accelerate implementation of new technologies and to improve life, performance, cost effectiveness, safety, and user satisfaction.

(vii) the deployment of innovative pavement designs, materials, and practices that reduce or sequester the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated during the construction of highways entire pavement life cycle, with consideration for findings.
from the materials to reduce greenhouse gas emissions program under subsection (d).

(C) HIGH-FRICTION SURFACE TREATMENT APPLICATION STUDY.

(i) DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION.— In this subparagraph, the term ‘institution’ means a private sector entity, public agency, research university or other research institution, or organization representing transportation and technology leaders or other transportation stakeholders that, as determined by the Secretary, is capable of working with State highway agencies, the Federal Highway Administration, and the highway construction industry to develop and evaluate new products, design technologies, and construction methods that quickly lead to pavement improvements.

(ii) STUDY.— The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with an institution to carry out a study on the use of natural and synthetic calcined bauxite as a high-friction surface treatment application on pavement.

(iii) REPORT.— Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019, the Secretary shall submit a report on the results of the study under clause (ii) to—

(I) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(II) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(III) the Federal Highway Administration; and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

(C) Funding.— The Secretary shall obligate for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2025 from funds made available to carry out this subsection $12,000,000 $14 million to accelerate the deployment and implementation of pavement technology.

(D) Publication.—

(i) In general.— Not less frequently than annually once every 3-2 years, the Secretary shall issue and make available to the public on an Internet website a report on the cost and benefits from deployment of new technology and innovations that substantially and directly resulted from the program established under this paragraph.
(ii) Inclusions.—The report under clause (i) may include an analysis of—

(I) Federal, State, and local cost savings;
(II) project delivery time improvements;
(III) reduced fatalities;
(IV) congestion impacts;
(V) pavement monitoring and data collection practices;
(VI) pavement durability and resilience;
(VII) stormwater management;
(VIII) impacts on vehicle efficiency;
(IX) the energy efficiency of the production of paving materials and the ability of paving materials to enhance the environment and promote sustainability reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
(X) integration of renewable energy in pavement designs; and
(XI) greenhouse gas emissions reduction, including findings from the materials to reduce greenhouse gas emissions program under subsection 3(d).

(d) MATERIALS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 month after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall establish and implement a program under which the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to research and support the development of materials that will reduce or sequester the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated during the production of highway materials and the construction and use of highways entire pavement life cycle.

(2) ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that the program, at a minimum—

(A) carries out research to determine the materials proven to most effectively reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions;

(B) evaluates and improves the ability of materials to most effectively reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions; and

(C) supports the development and deployment of materials that will reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions.
(3) COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS.—

(A) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) CONSIDERATION.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider the degree to which applicants presently carry out research on materials that reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

(C) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary may make grants under this subsection to any eligible entity based on the demonstrated ability of the applicant to fulfill the activities described in paragraph (2).

(D) TRANSPARENCY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to each eligible entity submitting an application under this subsection, upon request, any materials, including copies of reviews (with any information that would identify a reviewer redacted), used in the evaluation process of the application of such entity.

(ii) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report describing the overall review process for a grant under this subsection, including—

(I) specific criteria of evaluation used in the review;

(II) descriptions of the review process; and

(III) explanations of the grants awarded.

(4) GRANTS.—

(A) RESTRICTIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, a grant made available under this subsection shall be not greater than $4,000,000 and not less than $2,000,000 per recipient.
(ii) LIMITATION.—An eligible entity may only receive 1 grant in a fiscal year under this subsection.

(B) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this subsection, a grant recipient shall match 50 percent of the amounts made available under the grant.

(ii) SOURCES.—The matching amounts referred to in clause (i) may include amounts made available to the recipient under—

(I) section 504(b); or

(II) section 505.

(5) PROGRAM COORDINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(i) coordinate the research, education, and technology transfer activities carried out by grant recipients under this subsection;

(ii) disseminate the results of that research through the establishment and operation of a publicly accessible online information clearinghouse; and

(iii) to the extent practicable, support the deployment and commercial adoption of effective materials researched or developed under this subsection to relevant stakeholders.

(B) ANNUAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary shall, consistent with the activities in paragraph (3)—

(i) review and evaluate the programs carried out under this subsection by grant recipients, describing the effectiveness of the program in identifying materials that reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions over the entire life cycle of the pavement;

(ii) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report describing such review and evaluation; and
(iii) make the report in clause (ii) available to the public on a website.

(6) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to carry out this subsection shall remain available for obligation by the Secretary for a period of years after the last day of the fiscal year for which the amounts are authorized.

(7) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Any survey, questionnaire, or interview that the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out reporting requirements relating to any program assessment or evaluation activity under this subsection, including customer satisfaction assessments, shall not be subject to chapter 35 of title 44.

(8) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a nonprofit institution of higher education, as such term is defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).