September 4, 2019

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
309 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren & Senator Markey,

The thirty-one Massachusetts organizations signing this letter collectively support the July 30 Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee’s unanimous approval of the America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA). The ATIA would significantly increase investment in the nation’s roads and bridges—something long overdue—enabling the transportation system in Massachusetts to deliver more for the economy and traveling public that relies on it.

ATIA would authorize $287 billion in highway and bridge improvements and distribute 90 percent of these funds by formula to the states. It would authorize a 17 percent increase in investment in FY 2021—the largest increase in core highway investment in 15 years. Over the 5-year authorization, highway funding would increase more than 27%. The EPW committee’s action is further demonstration of transportation infrastructure investment’s bipartisan appeal and reinforces this is an area where the two parties can come together to benefit the American people.

We share the view of EPW Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-Del.) that highway user fees should be used to support needed increases in highway infrastructure and safety investments. We urge you to join them in working to achieve that goal.

Federal funds account for, on average, 51 percent of state highway and bridge capital investments made annually. This makes finding a long-term, user-based revenue solution even more imperative. The temporary patches and budget gimmicks that plagued the last few reauthorization cycles had negative impacts on state transportation planning and the jobs that rely on the construction of these projects, and should be avoided this time around.

The EPW committee took an important first step with approval of ATIA. We the undersigned respectfully encourage you to join Senators Barrasso and Carper in supporting enactment of this legislation this year.

Sincerely,