

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-222, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

The organizations signed below urge Congress to take immediate action to help mitigate the adverse effects COVID-19 has had on the aviation industry. Specifically, Congress should authorize an additional \$10 billion in Airport Improvement Grants (AIP) to help continue airport capital projects and programs that are currently underway, including facility projects that are mission critical to the operation of the airport.

[ACI-NA reports](#) that airports are currently projecting almost \$9 billion in lost revenues due to the reduction in travelers. Airport operating revenue is expected to drop by \$7.6 billion and PFC revenues are anticipated to drop by \$1.1 billion. Outstanding debt for U.S. commercial airports stands at roughly \$100 billion, with at least \$7 billion in interest and bond repayments due this year, according to ACI.

This loss in revenues will have immediate impacts on airport construction projects and programs that are currently underway. An influx of \$10 billion in AIP capital grants will help to sustain these programs and keep people working. This funding should be provided at 100 percent federal share with no matching requirements and be derived from the General Fund. Also, eligibility of this funding should be expanded to cover debt service payments and those projects and activities that are eligible for Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) funding.

We fully appreciate the additional costs airports have incurred with additional cleaning, staffing and training requirements. We believe this influx of \$10 billion in AIP capital grants will provide airports an opportunity to dedicate other available funding to shore up these additional operational costs.

The COVID-19 crisis is truly a unique event with unprecedented impacts on the country and our economy. Progress must continue on airport and other infrastructure projects to make needed improvements and keep people employed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Airport Consultants Council  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Road & Transportation Builders Association

American Society of Civil Engineers  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association