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ACEC Urges Swift Action on Transportation Legislation; Promotes User Fee Increases in Line with States

Washington, DC - This morning, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing to investigate how future surface transportation policy should be aligned to meet the needs of the 21st Century. The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) welcomes this timely hearing because it indicates that Chairman DeFazio remains committed to drafting a successor to the FAST ACT, which expires in 2020. ACEC’s president and CEO, Linda Bauer Darr, released the following statement on the hearing, expressing the engineering industry’s desire to see a multi-year surface transportation bill pass both chambers of Congress this year:

“ACEC’s member firms that work with state DOTs understand the importance of long-term certainty in infrastructure funding and policy. Without it, state and local agencies and their private sector partners cannot effectively develop and implement long-range improvement plans that help reduce congestion, enhance mobility, and improve safety.

The FAST Act has empowered states to make critical infrastructure investments and take steps to address their own financing challenges. Since 2013, 27 states have increased user fees to fund their transportation programs and many more are following suit. It is our hope that Congress will be inspired by the leadership shown by the states and pair a multi-year surface transportation bill with a plan to finally address the revenues flowing into the Highway Trust Fund. We look forward to helping to advance a strong bill that equips owners to design and build resilient systems and leverage emerging technologies that reflect 21st century needs.”

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of the nation’s engineering industry. Founded in 1906, ACEC is a national federation of 52 state and regional organizations representing more than 5,600 engineering firms and 600,000+ engineers, surveyors, architects, and other specialists nationwide. ACEC member firms drive the design of America’s infrastructure and built environment.

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