



December 7, 2020

To:

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer

The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) would like to thank Congress for its historic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the 128 toll facility operators in the U.S., we applaud your leadership and support your efforts to develop a bipartisan and bicameral framework to provide important emergency relief to individuals and industries across the country.

IBTTA urges Congress to recognize the needs of the transportation sector as part of any COVID-19 relief legislation and as a foundation for any economic recovery effort that this nation will face next year. In this regard, IBTTA continues to ask that Congress include \$3.1 billion in financial support for U.S. toll agencies as part of any emergency relief legislation in order to help the tolling industry effectively manage the ongoing loss of revenue and a range of new costs of operations being experienced due to the pandemic response.

U.S. toll facilities are critical infrastructure. Toll facilities in the U.S. are among the most important transportation assets in this country, consisting of some of the most heavily traveled highways, bridges, and tunnels in America. These facilities serve an essential mobility role for moving people and goods to and from employment centers, hospitals/healthcare facilities, schools, retail locations, and freight/logistics facilities in a safe and reliable manner. The nation's tolled facilities and corridors also ensure that growing e-commerce deliveries and activities supporting the emerging contactless economy are supported with a reliable and efficient mobility infrastructure.

U.S. toll facilities are essential to the pandemic response. Throughout the pandemic, our nation's toll facilities have remained operational and open for business, supporting mobility of critical health care and medical workers, public safety employees, emergency and first responders, and critical supply chain businesses. Our tolled transportation facilities have been a key component to the measured and phased reopening of State and regional economies across America. These transportation assets will be an essential part of the largest logistics imperative in American history, in moving Coronavirus vaccines throughout the nation in a timely and efficient manner.

U.S. toll operations are confronting unprecedented traffic and revenue losses.

While the plight of the U.S. aviation and public transit sectors have been well documented and publicized throughout the pandemic, the loss of traffic and revenue by operators of the nation's tolled highways, bridges and tunnels are having profound repercussions as well. In normal

times, the 342 toll facilities run by 128 operators in 34 states are self-sustaining. In the height of the initial pandemic response in April 2020, toll facilities suffered traffic and revenue declines of 50% to 90%. While traffic recovery through the summer outpaced other transportation modes, traffic and revenue are still 10% to 50% below pre-pandemic levels.

U.S. toll operations are facing limited financial management options. The pandemic has triggered accelerated changes for many operations to cashless toll collection and to add remote capabilities for the large centralized electronic tolling account management and customer service centers in typical operations. These operational changes have added costs at a time when they are least affordable. In the absence of federal assistance, the requirements of many bond covenants may require many operators to continue to reduce workforce, delay capital investments, and pursue untimely toll rate increases.

IBTTA members stand ready to support your work to develop COVID-19 relief and economic recovery legislation during these difficult times. Thank you again for your continued leadership during this challenging time and for considering this request for financial assistance for the U.S. tolling industry. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at pjones@ibtta.org or 703 587 5683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "D".

Patrick D. Jones
Executive Director & CEO