

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 24, 2015

Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

As you begin the process of considering the future direction of federal transportation programs, we would ask that you consider an innovative area in which to focus the federal aid highway program. This proposal has been brought to us by our local elected officials across the state and based on the statistics they've shown us, we believe it is worthy of consideration.

Attached is an outline of a proposed program called the National Interchange/Intersection Safety Construction Program (NIISCP), which would establish a national program for prioritizing federal highway funding toward interchanges and intersections. Why a focus on interchanges and intersections? Because national highway safety traffic statistics prove that is where a large majority of traffic accidents occur. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) "Traffic Safety Facts—2010", 28 percent of traffic fatalities in the United States occurred at intersections. Of all accidents that year, 47 percent occurred at intersections.

In our State of Minnesota, NHTSA's "Traffic Safety Facts—Minnesota/2007-2011", 32 percent of traffic fatalities occurred at intersections. In Hennepin County, Minnesota's largest County 37.5 percent of traffic deaths occurred at intersections and in Anoka County it was 37 percent.

The NIISCP would establish a national program that would take a portion of federal aid highway funds every year and allow projects to compete for those funds on a state-by-state basis. Of the authorization amount established, no state could receive more than 5 percent of the total annual funding, there would be strict project criteria as noted in the proposal and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would select the projects through a competitive process. Those projects selected could then be approved by Congress.

The proposal recommends a funding level of at least \$250 million which is about .5 percent of the current federal highway program.

We hope you consider this proposal and if you or your staff has any questions, please feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,



TOM EMMER  
Member of Congress



TIM WALZ  
Member of Congress



ERIK PAULSEN  
Member of Congress

Cc: Representative Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member

Attachment (1)