



Kentucky Chamber

March 4, 2021

Dear Legislator,

Time is running out, and we cannot afford to let another session come and go without increasing investment in our infrastructure to pave the way for Kentucky's economic recovery and future growth.

Our Commonwealth cannot afford throwaway roads or disposable public transit systems. The bridges and highways we fail to repair today will have to be rebuilt tomorrow at many times the cost. Good tax policy means that, wherever possible, a fee for service should be assessed against those who benefit from the service. Our Kentucky roads were built with such a user fee: the gas tax.

It makes sense to follow that principle to restore our roads and bridges to the condition we all want them to be in. Surrounding states have acted on this in recent years, and Kentucky cannot afford to get left behind.

More than \$570 Billion worth of freight travels through Kentucky's transportation network each year. More than 300,000 Kentuckians are employed in the manufacturing and logistics industries alone. With our location being within a day's drive of two thirds of the US population, Kentucky has become a logistics hub with the UPS Worldport in Louisville and the Amazon and DHL air hubs in northern Kentucky.

Just days after the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was approved for emergency use, the first shipments were sent to cities across the country from a warehouse in Shepherdsville, Kentucky. The first full truck of the vaccine rolled into the UPS facility in Louisville on Monday to be unloaded, sorted, and loaded onto planes to be flown out for delivery. The condition of Kentucky roadways should never be an impediment to the vital movement of such shipments that benefit all citizens of this country.

But in order for Kentucky to maintain its momentum and competitive advantage for logistics and manufacturing, we have to ensure that our infrastructure needs are met, and we cannot afford to wait. We lost more than \$110 million in state transportation buying power in 2020 because of the depletion of federal toll credits.

Should additional federal aid be made available through another COVID-19 relief package, Kentucky also will need to increase its state infrastructure investment to provide us the ability to meet required state/federal matches to receive those federal monies.

We urge you to pass House Bill 561 to help meet our state's mobility needs. It is imperative that we pass this measure to modernize the transportation funding formula for our cities and counties. The cost to the average driver will be small – about \$1 per week – but the benefit to our infrastructure system will be immense. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Association of Equipment Managers
BridgeLink
Building Kentucky
C2 Strategic Communications
Campbellsville-Taylor County Chamber of
Commerce
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport
Cleary Construction, Inc.
Commerce Lexington, Inc.
Danville-Boyle County Chamber
Floyd County Chamber of Commerce
Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce
Garrard County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Louisville, Inc.
Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of Commerce
Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce
Hazard-Perry County Chamber of Commerce
Home Builders Association of Kentucky
Hopkins County Regional Chamber
Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce
Kentuckians for Better Transportation
Kentucky Association of Counties
Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors
Kentucky Association of Manufacturers
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Crushed Stone Association
Kentucky Infrastructure Coalition
Kentucky League of Cities
Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners
Association
Lake Barkley Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce
Lockmasters, Inc.
London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce
McLean County Chamber of Commerce
Mountain Enterprises, Inc.
Northern Kentucky Chamber
Paducah Area Chamber
Rising Sun Developing, Inc.
RJ Corman Railroad Group
Southeast Kentucky Chamber
Southern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

The Walker Company
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, Inc.
West Kentucky Regional Chamber Alliance