

The FAST Act is the current authorizing legislation for federal surface transportation programs and expires September 30, 2020. Below is a summary of how ITE believes federal policy governing transportation research and innovation should be structured in the next transportation authorization.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Transportation agencies must deal with the myriad of new and existing challenges, including **short-term and long-term impacts of COVID-19, equity and justice, rapidly changing technology, new mobility options, environmental concerns, and safety.**
- In addressing these challenges, **there are currently more questions than answers. Evidence based research is the key.**

NEW POLICY INITIATIVES OR MODIFICATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS	
	<p>Establish a new Strategic Highway Research Program on Surface Transportation Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide evidence-based research to enable the most effective deployment of all the existing and new tools and approaches at our disposal. • These tools should include Vision Zero, complete streets, driver behavior laws, operational measures, new data collection and analysis tools, and measures to protect the most vulnerable road users.
	<p>Establish a new Strategic Transportation Research Program on Transformational Technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct the fact-based, accelerated research needed to inform policy in order to deploy these fast-developing technologies in a manner and timeframe to meet long-term goals while avoiding negative consequences. • Include connected and automated vehicles, electric vehicles, shared mobility, micro mobility, and data management and analytics.
	<p>Specify that deployment, operations, and maintenance of connected and automated infrastructure needs are eligible for federal funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations and maintenance of these systems is different than traditional infrastructure and needs to be treated as such from a procurement, funding, and oversight perspective. • Traditional infrastructure is designed to last for decades, but newer communications and digital infrastructure will have much shorter useful lives. • Maintaining the infrastructure that keeps vehicles connected to each other and to the roadways will be crucial for these systems to operate safely and efficiently.

RETAIN THESE FAST ACT POLICIES

- Maintain the State Planning and Research program in its current, formula-based configuration, including the 25 percent set-aside for research, development, and technology transfer activities
- Continue funding for the Transit Cooperative Research Program to assist public transportation agencies in addressing recovery from COVID-19 impacts, equity and justice, and other issues and challenges
- Continue funding for the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) research program to advance traffic management center operations, traffic incident management, traffic signal system management, public transit management, and advanced traveler information systems

The Advocacy Committee is your resource for educational materials, the importance of the reauthorization process, key talking points, and identifying local Advocacy Committee members to connect with. This page is a summary of ITE's White Paper on Research and Innovation hosted in addition to periodic updates and additional materials at

<https://ite.org/membership/advocacy-committee/>

WHAT ITE MEMBERS CAN DO:

The outcomes of the FAST Act Reauthorization process have the potential to greatly impact our country’s ability to meet the transportation needs of our states, cities, and local communities. ITE members need to rally together to support thoughtful, federal Reauthorization approaches so we can collectively shape the future of transportation. It is critically important that ITE members take an active role in the Reauthorization process. We are proud of the great work that ITE members are doing and want to make sure that we are able to continue doing this important work with the right federal support system.

We are ITE. We help to shape the future of transportation.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

- Safe & resilient mobility infrastructure requires a predictable, dependable, and adequate source of funding.
- The FAST Act supplemented Highway Trust Fund revenue with general funds. If not renewed, funding levels would substantially drop to what the Highway Trust Fund alone could sustain.
- This is the opportunity to advocate for new approaches to transportation policy and funding

GET ENGAGED	
	<p>Educate Yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the ITE Reauthorization Principles, white papers, and one-pagers • Read the FHWA’s Resources on the FAST Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/ • https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/legislation.cfm • Track the news around this topic
	<p>Talk to your colleagues, family, and friends about why dependable transportation funding matters</p>
	<p>Share a personal testimonial on #FASTAct</p>
	<p>Build an “Advocacy Minute” into the beginning of your meetings (your team/organizations and ITE working groups):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with your local ITE District/Section/Chapter about holding discussions/workshops/events/luncheons/dinners around these issues (or volunteer to help them organize this) • Educate key decision makers in your region to the importance of dependable transportation funding • Identify your federal Senate and House representatives and the schedule for their home visits • Encourage your local ITE D/S/C leadership to hold educational dinners with representatives (or volunteer to help them organize this)