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May 18, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

Thank you for your leadership and support for academic research, surface transportation research and development, and your introduction of the Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2021. Provisions of this legislation would have a positive impact on research to enhance transportation infrastructure resilience, safety, and efficiency.

Established in 1950 and part of The Texas A&M University System, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) is a state agency and the largest and most comprehensive higher education-affiliated transportation research center in the United States. TTI has conducted work in all 50 states and in 52 countries.

TTI has been a leader in the University Transportation Center (UTC) program since its inception. I appreciate your Committee's steadfast support for the UTC program, the addition of a number of important policy changes, and your recognition of the need for increased funding for this program to enhance our transportation system and drive our economy.

The inclusion of a provision establishing a pilot program to leverage vehicular data analytics has the potential to greatly enhance road safety and would make a significant contribution toward the goal of the Road to Zero Program to end traffic fatalities by 2050 and to reduce fatal crashes by half by 2035. The provisions establishing resilient transportation infrastructure centers of excellence and an advanced transportation research and innovation program also will serve to ensure prudent and efficient infrastructure investments long into the future.

Finally, I want to commend your staff for their work and willingness to engage with me and my team throughout the development of this legislation. TTI stands ready to be a resource for you and your Committee Members as this bipartisan bill moves through the legislative process.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory D. Winfree".

Gregory D. Winfree  
Agency Director

cc: The Honorable John Sharp, Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System  
Scott Sudduth, Esq., Associate Vice Chancellor for Federal Programs, The Texas A&M University System