

March 24, 2020

Nicole R. Nason
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Nason:

Thank you for your offer of support and partnership to the nation's state departments of transportation (state DOTs) to battle the COVID-19 crisis. Despite the uncertainty and rapidly-changing nature of this pandemic, state DOTs are working tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of their residents, employees, and the traveling public as they maintain their transportation system.

State DOTs understand that access to rest areas for professional truck drivers and other essential critical infrastructure workers enables safe and efficient movement of emergency equipment and life-sustaining goods and supplies across the nation. States are working to the maximum extent possible to continue to allow parking and provide rest room facilities at highway rest areas.

To further facilitate the movement of these goods and supplies, and to reduce unnecessary administrative burden to the states, we request the Federal Highway Administration exercise administrative authority under 23 U.S.C. 127(i) to allow states to issue programmatic—rather than individualized—permits to be applicable on the IHS routes certified by the state and determined to be safely operable up to maximum axle and gross vehicle weights determined by the state.

You can be assured that as owners and operators of the IHS, state DOTs will prioritize—as they always do—the safety of the traveling public first and foremost while ensuring preservation of their most critical transportation assets.

The nation's state DOTs stand ready to assist FHWA and the rest of our federal partners during this crisis. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Tymon, AASHTO's Executive Director, at 202-624-5811 or jtymon@aaashto.org.

Sincerely,



Patrick K. McKenna
President, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
Director, Missouri Department of Transportation