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former U.S. Secretary of
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U.S. Representative (R-Peoria)



Thank you

June 28, 2019

Dear Governor Pritzker and Speaker Madigan, President Cullerton, and Leaders Durkin, and Brady,

For the first time in more than a decade, Illinois has a plan to invest in its transportation infrastructure. We give our deep thanks and congratulations to you, your staffs, and the entire General Assembly for this historic achievement.

The leadership you have shown in passing this legislation will bring much needed improvement to people's lives, businesses, and the economic future of metropolitan Chicago and the entire state.

We applaud the inclusion of long-term sustainable funding for transportation investment that will improve, enhance, and expand Illinois' transportation system. We are happy to see that the revenue sources are largely based on user fees. Raising revenue from those who use and benefit the most from the transportation system is the fairest approach to funding.

Provisions in the bill that empower local governments to address their own transportation needs are important and will allow for smaller but still essential projects to move forward.

We commend the inclusion of flexible funding that sets aside significant and much needed dollars for transit, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure. These provisions will truly help all users of our transportation system and represent critical investments in not just safety and mobility, but in the prosperity and quality of life of residents and communities statewide.

For us, the hard but exciting work now begins—collaborating to prioritize and implement key projects, large and small.

Our coalition formed to advocate for sustainable transportation revenue, and now we look forward to many productive years of working together and with you, the Illinois Department of Transportation, and local decision-makers to make our transportation system safer and more reliable for the people of Illinois.