

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

We write to you today with deep concern regarding the Administration's significant efforts to decrease the Department of Transportation's (DOT) workforce. Specifically, we are troubled by reports¹ that the reduction in staff at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) could result in the closure of numerous state-level division offices, ultimately threatening the productivity of the agency and the strength of public safety initiatives. We urge you to reconsider these staffing cuts and ensure FHWA can operate at the highest level of effectiveness.

FHWA division offices play a crucial role in supporting highway transportation projects nationwide. These divisions provide infrastructure maintenance and technical assistance in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, aiding projects in every step of the process from planning and research to construction and maintenance. By providing guidance to and working collaboratively with state DOTs, division offices ensure that our nation's roads, bridges, and tunnels are safe and support economic growth. Their work is vital to the mission of the federal DOT, contributing local knowledge and on-the-ground support.

The Administration's efforts to reduce the federal workforce have already resulted in profound interruptions to the operations of FHWA division offices. In states like North Carolina and Texas, division workforces have been reduced by 50 and 60 percent respectively, with approximately 700 total employees expected to accept deferred resignation offers in the near future. This reduction, in addition to the dismissal of approximately 3,000 probationary employees, will bring DOT to a staffing reduction of 12 percent since January of this year. These cuts are hindering division offices' effectiveness, jeopardizing public safety, and threatening the critical work of the entire agency.

Gutting the FHWA's workforce indiscriminately will make our communities less safe. Division offices must be given the support and staffing necessary to complete their vital work ensuring infrastructure stability and civilian safety. We urge the DOT to reevaluate its efforts to reduce staffing levels at the DOT and ensure that FHWA division offices have the proper staff to support the agency's vital work.

¹ <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/deferred-resignation-program-hitting-state-level-highway-offices-00357087>

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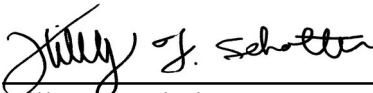
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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

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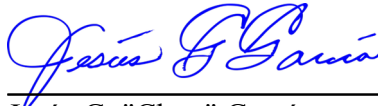
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Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress