Conference of Minority Transportation Officials

2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES

Transportation as a Catalyst for Economic Opportunity, Thriving Communities, and Innovation

The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) advocates for transportation systems that are safe, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the communities they serve. As a network of transportation agencies, private firms, small businesses, and industry professionals, COMTO works to ensure that transportation investments strengthen the nation's economic competitiveness while expanding workforce opportunities and supporting thriving communities. As Congress prepares for the Surface Transportation Reauthorization, set to expire on September 30, 2026, COMTO urges federal leaders to prioritize policies that strengthen workforce pipelines, expand opportunities for small businesses, accelerate project delivery, and support innovative mobility solutions.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Maintaining a strong and reliable federal funding framework is essential to sustaining America's transportation infrastructure.

- **Sustainable, Long-Term Funding**: Identify long-term solutions to address declining gas tax revenues. Investigate innovative approaches like dynamic tolling and public-private partnerships to understand effectiveness and impact on all users.
- **Workforce Development & Local Hiring**: Expand federal investments in workforce training, apprenticeships, and industry credentialing programs. Support local hiring and workforce pipeline programs that connect communities to infrastructure careers.
- **Streamlined Project Delivery**: Support bipartisan efforts to reduce permitting delays and accelerate timelines without compromising public engagement or safety.

Transportation Investments that Drive Economic Opportunity

Transportation infrastructure investments should generate lasting economic benefits for communities and support resilient regional economies.

- Promote transit-oriented development, commercial corridors, and small business growth connected to transportation investments. Promote transit-oriented development, small business corridors, and commercial ownership in infrastructure opportunity zones.
- Prioritize transportation investments that promote economic mobility and local ownership
- Support corridor reinvestment initiatives that anchor long-term economic opportunity.

Public-Private Partnerships and Small Business Growth

Public–private partnerships and innovative collaborations play a vital role in advancing complex transportation projects, encouraging competitiveness and expanding industry participation.

- Expand use of Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) to accelerate infrastructure development.
- Encourage innovative project structures that allow small and emerging firms to compete for prime contracts.
- Increase funding for capacity building & technical assistance programs that ensure transportation investments deliver lasting benefits communities and regional economies.