

## **2021 January PIN Update**

What a year 2020 has been. Despite the slow progress on a transportation bill under the Trump administration, changes are on the horizon.

At the end of September, a government funding bill extension was passed to keep the government running until December 11, 2020. In addition, the FAST act was extended for one year at the end of September, however it was not funded. Since the second COVID stimulus package was being delayed by Congress, the government funding extension was pushed to December 28 and it was paired with the second COVID stimulus package. This legislation assigned \$10 billion from general revenue fund to fund the FAST Act one year extension at current levels of \$46.4 billion for core highway programs. No new PPP money for infrastructure was included in this funding package.

Since the Senate runoff elections in Georgia both went to the Democrats candidates, both houses of Congress and the White House will have Democrat control for the next two years. With a new presidency, the new Secretary of Transportation will be former Mayor and Presidential Candidate Pete Buttigieg. First on the agenda is to address the Highway Trust Fund, which will be bankrupt in April, 2021. He will work to implement Biden's plan, Build Back Better, that would outlay \$2 trillion over the next four years to address infrastructure needs. These investments would be focused on roads, bridges, rail, and transit, along with funds for broadband access, energy, wastewater, housing, innovation, and healthcare. Included in that would be an immediate \$50 billion infusion to "jump-start the repair of our highways, roads, and bridges." saying it would be "a transformational investment in our country's infrastructure and future.

While events on January 6 at the US Capital has saddened the ASHE PIN, there is hope that our country will survive. Please pray that this divide that has gotten wider, deeper, and more painful, can be healed so that the country can move to matters desperately needed by the country, such as a transportation bill.