

March 30, 2026

Re: Support for H.B. 7437 Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act

Dear Members of National Capital Region Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) we are writing to ask for your support of H.B. 7437 Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act, bipartisan legislation sponsored by Representatives Kristen McDonald Rivets (D-MI) and Rob Bresnahan (R-PA).

As the regional association representing the 24 local governments in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and suburban Maryland, COG supports key federal programs included in the BASICS Act such as planning funds for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs), the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program. Specifically, many improvements in this Act will directly enable COG to provide better data and coordination opportunities to its members if planning funds are increased, the federal share is changed to 100 percent, and MPOs are enabled to be direct recipients.

The BASICS Act improves transparency by reinforcing collaboration across federal, state, regional, and local partners to ensure that local voices are heard and transportation investments reflect what communities need most. With nearly 100 roadway deaths each day, the BASICS Act increases and protects funding for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). It also ensures that 25 percent of HSIP funds are delivered through MPOs for proven safety projects that build on the success of the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. COG has an impressive record of supporting and implementing safety initiatives and this would further enable the Washington region to continue its efforts.

The BASICS Act ensures bridge funding reflects this reality by directing resources proportionally to locally owned bridges in each state. This legislation is supported by the Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition, representing more than 25,000 counties, cities, towns, MPOs, regional councils, and economic development organizations. Coalition members include the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM). This broad coalition reflects the nationwide recognition that local and regional governments must have a stronger voice and better tools in shaping federal transportation policy.

Again, we urge you to support this legislation, and we thank you for your partnership. If you have any questions please reach out to Monica Beyrouti Nunez at (202)962-3212 or [mbeyrouti@mwkog.org](mailto:mbeyrouti@mwkog.org).



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

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Reuben Collins  
COG Board Chair  
Charles County Commissioner  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Allen".

Charles Allen  
COG Board Vice Chair  
District of Columbia  
Councilmember

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alyia Gaskins".

Alyia Gaskins  
COG Board Vice Chair  
City of Alexandria