



# Assembly Members Baldwin Day and Volland

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March 17, 2026

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Representative Begich,

As Anchorage Assembly Members serving on the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) Policy Committee, we write in support of the **Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act (H.R. 7437)**. This bipartisan bill would make significant improvements to federal transportation programs to help more local governments like the Municipality of Anchorage access reliable funding for crucial regional priority transportation projects as well as bridge and safety funding.

As owners and operators of 75% of the country's public road miles and nearly half of U.S. bridges, local governments like the Municipality of Anchorage are responsible for maintaining almost half of the nation's transportation assets for the safety of our traveling public, yet recent analysis shows that **while local governments own 43% of the Federal-Aid road network, less than 15 percent of federal formula funding makes it down to local priority projects**. We urge you to address the discrepancy between our current responsibility and lack of access to funding to better advance national and regional priorities, foster economic development, and improve safety by supporting the formula program changes outline in BASICS Act (H.R. 7437).

Congress now has an opportunity to work directly with cities like ours to reauthorize and realign transportation policy with ownership realities, empowering local leaders to deliver safer, faster, and more accountable projects. The bipartisan BASICS Act provides a strong framework for how to do that. This bill, which is endorsed by organizations representing more than 25,000 individual counties, cities, towns, planning agencies and regional economic development organizations across the United States would increase the share of federal formula funding that is available to local governments while also making necessary process improvements to ensure formula funds reach locally selected projects.

Specifically, this bill would:

- Grow the versatile Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program, which provides flexible funding that benefits both states and locals.
- Provide our community with access to federal formula funding for bridges and safety infrastructure. In Anchorage, the BASICS Act could provide more necessary funding for

important Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) projects like Tudor Road Vulnerable Road Users Improvements and the Ingra/Gambell Corridor Improvements that will help to reduce the number of non-motorized serious injuries and fatalities within the AMATS area, which has been on the rise.

- Support metropolitan planning organizations and fortify project selection authority to ensure locally selected projects properly advance with federal funding.
- Fund rural and regional transportation planning organizations to boost the capacity of rural areas and improve their access to formula funding.
- Strengthen the intergovernmental partnership by promoting increased coordination between states, cities and other units of local government.

We strongly support the continuation of critical grant program opportunities like BUILD, Railroad Crossing Elimination, Safe Streets and more, but the provisions in the BASICS Act are important for ensuring that local governments have a reliable baseline level of access to federal formula funding in the next reauthorization bill, especially if there will be an emphasis on consolidating discretionary opportunities and prioritizing formula funding.

As Congress continues to develop the next surface transportation reauthorization bill, we urge you Representative Begich to cosponsor H.R. 7437 and ask Committee leadership to include provisions for the BASICS Act in its base text. Further, we urge you, Senator Murkowski and Senator Sullivan, to support the BASICS Act provisions in the forthcoming base bill, and to advance companion or similar legislation.

Sincerely,



**Erin Baldwin Day, Assembly Member**

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