

*April 14, 2021*  
*Rep Danny K Davis T&I Testimony*

Good Morning -- Chairman DeFazio/Ranking Member Graves and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for hosting this opportunity for me to advocate for transportation interest in the state of Illinois and the Chicagoland area (which is represent); specifically.

Mr. Chairman, it is no secret that Chicago a great connector and transportation hub for rail, airlines, waterways, surface, and transit. Our needs are vast, and our needs are great. Donor states like Illinois don't receive the appropriate share of the federal resources that it pays, and it is indicative of the amount of infrastructure updates and maintenance backlog that is currently needed to maintain the foundation of our modern society. Chicago needs around \$4 billion dollars for infrastructure replacements, and Illinois needs \$40 billion.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Illinois Infrastructure Grade is a C-.

The ASCE stated, **“THE STATE’S INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BEEN ON A STARVATION DIET”**

So today, I wanted to touch on some problem areas where adequate infrastructure funding will improve upon this score.

In aviation – Illinois boast the 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest airport in the nation but also has 115 public use airports - 77 of these airports are publicly owned. The aviation capacity will continue to grow with the O'Hare Modernization Program, improved cargo capacity at Rockford International Airport and terminal capacity at Rockford International Airport.

Illinois has the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest bridge inventory in the nation with roughly 26,775 bridges.

8.6% of these bridges are structurally deficient.

In Chicago, our drinking water is in serious need of immediate resources to replace aging pipes and upgrade our wastewater systems. According to ASCE, in 1900, the average residential use of portable water in the US was 5 gallons per day – per person. Today that number is 100 gallons of water per day – per person.

In a suburban community in my district - Maywood, Illinois - has lost at least 30% of their water costing the residents \$1.66 million due to water main pipe breaks.

Illinois also has 1118 miles of waterways and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest agriculture exporter in the US. The state is the number one exporter of soybeans, soymeal, and vegetable oil.

\$18 billion dollars of Illinois industry products are exported annually via the waterways. Investments in lock facilities and dam modernization is critical to the growth and survival of the state's agricultural industry.

Illinois rail industry has a 7000-mile track network and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest rail network in the country. It is also important to note Illinois is the only state which all Seven Class 1 freight railroads operate.

Nearly one-quarter of the nations rail-shipped goods and services move through Chicago and more carloads of freight are carried through Illinois than any other state in the U.S.

Chicago is also the single busiest and largest rail city in the nation. Freight and passenger systems like; (Amtrak, Metra & CTA) are the backbone of the city and state economy. The transit system has over 7500 passenger vehicles, over 400 stations and 70 maintenance facilities serving Chicago and hundreds of suburban communities. Modernization of the system will continue to minimize congestion and reduce carbon admissions.

Although I have outlined the vast traditional infrastructure needs – I would like to highlight further needs to be considered.

The bill is an opportunity to modernize housing, expand renewal energy projects, build more EV charging stations in underdeveloped communities, build new affordable housing in many of the blighted communities around the county and specifically westside communities that were left decimated after the King riots and expand broadband availability to underserved communities.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you the members of the committee on this legislation that will be the catalyst to providing financial equity to places that have been long overlooked in the inner city.

Thank you.