

## Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Member Day Testimony

Rep. Haley Stevens (MI-11)

April 14, 2021

Good afternoon. I would like to thank you, Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and distinguished Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for hosting this hearing today to seek our input on infrastructure issues critical to our districts.

As I visit every corner of my incredible district in southeastern Michigan, one common theme has become abundantly clear – our roads are in desperate need of improvement. Though our local and state officials have led the way with investing in our infrastructure, there has not been nearly enough federal support for our communities' evolving infrastructure needs, from electric vehicle infrastructure to simply making sure our existing roads are still effective.

One such project in my district is the Beck Road Improvement Corridor. This is a multi-jurisdictional project comprised of four municipalities and two countries, which seeks to expand a congested roadway to alleviate traffic.

There are approximately 7,000 jobs within one mile on either side of Beck Road, with hundreds of companies that rely on this road for freight and customer traffic. The average daily traffic county on this road has more than doubled over the past 20 years, resulting in a crash frequency that is **10 times worse** than the regional average.

Though I strongly support continued investment in transit options to reduce congestion and increase safety, our roadways and bridges have been so neglected that making investments such as this project today will create meaningful solutions to accommodate traffic growth, safety, and economic development in regions such as my district where public transit is not easily accessible.

This is by no means the only project in my district worth highlighting as a critical piece of our thriving innovation ecosystem in Michigan-11, but it is one example of how far our investments can go to make our constituents' lives better and their families safer.

Another topic I would like to lay before the Committee's consideration is the importance of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The auto industry is the economic backbone of both my district and the state of Michigan, and our companies and our workers have been making investments into new battery and production technology to increase the use of electric vehicles in the United States.

Though the technology and market issues are key, our electric vehicle development is only as good as the infrastructure that enables widespread consumer use. With any infrastructure package, we have a great opportunity to invest in a standardized charging system across the U.S. to ensure that any driver of an electric vehicle has access to adequate charging capability while creating good-paying American union jobs.

I look forward to working with your committee to invest in America's infrastructure while creating jobs and sparking innovative solutions to critical transportation issues such as safety and congestion.

Thank you, and I yield back.