

## Pass a 2026 Highway Bill that Modernizes and Electrifies Surface Transportation

### NECA Asks:

Enact a minimum five-year surface transportation authorization (highway “reauthorization” bill) with increased, predictable funding and stable revenue to support long-term planning and investment.

### Why It Matters:

NECA supports directing the highway bill to prioritize projects that incorporate resiliency, backup capacity, and modern electrical system design, including smart and electrified transportation assets.

- Electrical contractors rely on steady federal investment to plan, bid, and staff multi-year transportation projects across highways, bridges, tunnels, transit, ports, and airports.
- Short-term extensions and continuing resolutions force states and contractors to delay or downsize projects, disrupting workforce pipelines and supply chains.

### Recommendations:

NECA contractors deliver transmission, grid modernization, federal facility electrical work, and critical infrastructure projects that often require multi-agency federal approvals. Predictable, efficient permitting is essential to mobilize crews, manage costs, and meet national energy and infrastructure goals.

- **Statutory time and page limits for environmental documents** (e.g., EIS: 2 years and 300 pages; EA: 1 year and 75 pages), with targeted exceptions.
- **Clarify that NEPA is a procedural statute**, not a mandate to analyze every speculative cumulative or indirect effect, helping reduce litigation over the scope of analysis.
- **Require agencies to leverage existing data and prior NEPA reviews** where appropriate, instead of restarting analysis from scratch.
- **Expand and standardize categorical exclusions** (CEs) for routine, low-impact electrical infrastructure work—such as reconductoring, equipment replacement within existing rights-of-way, substation upgrades, and minor grid interconnections.

The **National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)** is the voice of the \$270 billion electrical construction industry that brings power, light, and communication technology to buildings and communities across North America. NECA’s national office and 118 local chapters advance the industry through advocacy, education, research, and standards development.

For more information, please contact us at [necagovtaffairs@necanet.org](mailto:necagovtaffairs@necanet.org)