Fiber Optic Sensing Association
Public Policy Position Paper - Pipelines & Surface Transportation

I. Pipelines

- PHMSA Study on Pipeline Safety Test Facility. FOSA supports Section 106 of the PIPES Act of 2019 (S.2299), directing the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to study the costs and benefits of an independent pipeline safety test facility. FOSA also supports the original Section 23 of the SAFER Pipelines Act of 2019 (H.R. 5120) and urges the restoration of the original language.

- National Academy of Sciences Study on Seismicity. FOSA supports Section 22 of the SAFER Pipelines Act of 2019 (H.R. 5120), calling for the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate and make recommendations regarding Federal requirements and industry practices relating to seismicity, land subsidence, landslides, slope instability, frost heave, soil settlement, erosion, and other dynamic geologic conditions that may pose a pipeline safety risk.

II. Infrastructure

- Dig Once. FOSA supports the "Dig Once" policy of Section 607 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (enacted as 47 USC 1504) facilitating installation of broadband conduit during construction of federally-funded highways. Because Dig Once becomes effective only upon the Department of Transportation's publication of related regulations, FOSA urges Congress to direct DOT to accelerate the promulgation of these regulations. Further, to ensure the optimal usefulness of such conduit, FOSA urges that the regulations encourage proper positioning of the conduit to facilitate sensing in addition to facilitating communications.

- 2302, America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019

    - FOSA supports Section 1108. Railway-Highway Grade Crossing. This section authorizes appropriations of not less than $245 million per year for FY 2021-2025 for projects to reduce pedestrian fatalities and injuries from trespassing at grade crossings.

    - FOSA supports Title III, Research, Technology & Education.

        - Section 3003 Data Integration Pilot Program. This section creates a pilot program - (1) to provide research and develop models that integrate, in near-real-time, data from multiple sources, including geolocated— (A) weather conditions; (B) roadway conditions; (C) incidents, work zones, and other non-recurring events related to emergency planning; and (D) information from emergency responders; and (2) to

facilitate data integration between the Department, the National Weather Service, and other sources of data that provide real-time data with respect to roadway conditions during or as a result of severe weather events, including, at a minimum—(A) winter weather; (B) heavy rainfall; and (C) tropical weather events.

- Section 3004 Emerging Technology Research Pilot Program. This section creates a pilot program regarding (1) research and development activities relating to leveraging advanced and additive manufacturing technologies to increase the structural integrity and cost-effectiveness of surface transportation infrastructure; and (2) research and development activities (including laboratory and test track supported accelerated pavement testing research regarding the impacts of connected, autonomous, and platooned vehicles on pavement and infrastructure performance)

- Sec 3005 Research and Technology Development and Deployment. This section requires, inter alia, studies on the deployment and revenue potential of energy and broadband infrastructure in highway rights-of-way, including potential adverse impacts of the use or nonuse of those rights-of-way.