

**Statement of Paul Trombino III**  
**Nominee for Administrator of Federal Highway Administration**  
**U.S. Department of Transportation**  
**Before the**  
**U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works**  
**October 5, 2017**

Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. If I am confirmed, I will look forward to working with all of you to advance mobility on our Nation's highways.

I also want to thank Senator Joni Ernst for her very kind introduction. As Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation, I was honored to work with then Iowa State Senator and now U.S. Senator Ernst on improving the transportation system in the State of Iowa.

I am also pleased to introduce my wife, Trish Trombino, who is here with me today. Unfortunately, our two children, Enzo and Mila, are busy with their college studies at Iowa State University and are not able to be here today.

I am very grateful to President Trump and Secretary Chao for their confidence in my ability to serve in this key transportation position. The Nation's Highway System has always played a vital role in the quality of life of our people and provided a competitive advantage to our nation's businesses, and this is still true today. I have been blessed with a wonderfully diverse career in transportation for over 20 years and, if I am confirmed, these experiences will prove valuable to my new role at the Department of Transportation.

I have worked for two different state departments of transportation in Wisconsin and Iowa. While at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, I held senior executive roles as Operations Director for the Highway Division and Director of Statewide Bridges. In Iowa, I served under former Governor Branstad as Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation. During these two state government experiences, I gained keen insight into executing highway improvement projects, regulatory policies, and developing broad modal diversity in the transportation system.

While Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation, I served in leadership roles for our national state departments of transportation association, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), which was rewarding not only for building relationships with colleagues but also from sharing best practices and lessons learned. Finally, I have served in a leadership role with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Transportation Research Board, which is working with academia toward new process and technology improvements across all modes.

The core value of all transportation agencies is safety, and this value binds us across all levels of government and across all modes of transportation. The safety of the travelling public must continue to be the primary objective. Today, we are in an age of accelerating technological advancement in transportation vehicles, infrastructure, and systems. As these new technologies are developed and in the future become commonly available and used by the public, the challenge of promoting the public's safety while encouraging innovation will be increasingly important.

If confirmed as Federal Highway Administrator, I will be involved in helping to rebuild America's highways and bridges. Much needs to be done in this area, and I am eager to play a role in launching critical infrastructure projects as well as in maintaining America's highway network. Certainly, as the President has called for, we need a new emphasis on building and repairing infrastructure as well as common sense reforms in federal permitting. I support permit streamlining and look forward to contributing to responsible changes that reduce the time and money project sponsors must spend before a project can even begin. I do not believe we have to sacrifice environmental goals to accomplish process and paperwork reduction.

I have had wonderful experiences of directly working with policy makers at the city, county, state and federal government levels in transportation related projects and policy. One of the most valued lessons gained in my career have been the importance of establishing excellent communication and working relationships with policy makers. If I am confirmed, I commit to working with members of Congress, and particularly this committee, to achieve successful outcomes for transportation and the Nation's highways.

If I am confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity to work with all of you to improve the safety and mobility of all Americans. The Nation's highway system has long been the driving force for economic opportunity and success in the United States, and I am truly humbled at the opportunity to help advance the quality of life of Americans across the country through transportation.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear here today.