

## Questions for the Record

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

*“Nominations of Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, to be Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Transportation (DOT); Mohsin Raza Syed, to be Assistant Secretary of Government Affairs at DOT; Amitabha Bose, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration; and Meera Joshi, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration”*

10:00 AM, September 22, 2021

### Questions for the Record from Hon. SINEMA to VICTORIA WASSMER

***Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).*** The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides a significant investment of 550 billion additional dollars over five years in America’s transportation infrastructure. The Department of Transportation (DOT) will oversee the distribution of many the funds authorized by the IIJA, should be it become law.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, how will you in your role as chief financial officer of the DOT ensure these funds are expended in a fair and efficient manner? What will you do to protect against fraud, waste, and abuse in the disbursement of IIJA funds?

***Answer:*** Throughout my career, I have been a strong advocate for protecting Federal resources and using funding wisely. In my view, one of the best ways to protect the Nation’s resources is to ensure that Federal Agencies establish and maintain a strong system of internal controls so that specific procedures and safeguards are followed at every step of the way in executing Federal dollars. If confirmed as Chief Financial Officer, I will ensure that DOT continues to maintain strong financial management systems and processes that protect funding and provide transparent and reliable information.

The passage of the IIJA will provide major funding increases for many of the current programs in the Department as well as funding for several new programs. If confirmed, I will work closely with the DOT leadership, my staff, and my counterparts within the Department to ensure that funds provided through this legislation are disbursed in a timely fashion and accounted for properly in our financial management systems. I will also ensure that regular reporting on our progress in implementing these funds is provided to Congress.

*Question 2.* Should the IIJA become law, how would its investments revitalize America’s transportation infrastructure?

***Answer:*** The IIJA provides \$550 billion in new federal investment in America’s infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and mass transit, water infrastructure, resilience, and broadband. The Biden-Harris Administration believes that we must invest in our country and in our people by creating good-paying union jobs, tackling the climate crisis, and growing the economy sustainably and equitably for decades to come. This bipartisan legislation will deliver progress towards these objectives for our Nation’s transportation

**infrastructure and for working families across the country. Among other investments, IIJA makes the largest federal investment in public transit ever; makes the largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak; makes the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system; and helps us tackle the climate crisis by making the largest investment in clean energy transmission and EV infrastructure in history, including electrifying thousands of school and transit buses across the country.**