



Highway Formula Fairness Act

Reps. Greg Stanton (AZ-04) and Tony Gonzales (TX-23)

The Highway Formula Fairness Act is an important first step in ensuring that rapidly growing western states like Arizona and Texas receive their fair share of federal transportation dollars—allowing states to invest in needed transportation infrastructure to keep up with their expanding populations.

BACKGROUND:

The Highway Trust Fund (HTF) is the primary federal transportation fund for highways and mass transit. These federal dollars are allocated to states based on a complicated funding formula.

Unfortunately, the HTF funding formula has not been updated to account for changes in state populations. The formula does not account for changes in population since the 2010 Census. This means that rapidly growing western states like Arizona and Texas have missed out on critical highways funds.

For example, between the 2010 Census and the 2020 Census, Arizona's population increased by 11.9%¹ and was ranked 9th in the country for percentage of population growth². But in 2025, Arizona received the 3rd lowest percentage of dollars apportioned to dollars contributed to the fund in the country. Texas saw the third largest population growth from 2010, and still received some of the lowest percentage of apportioned dollars.³ It's time for Congress to give all states their fair share of HTF dollars.

THE SOLUTION:

The *Highway Formula Fairness Act* is bipartisan legislation that would allow for the decennial census to be considered when calculating apportionment, permitting states that have increased in population since the previous Census to receive funding that reflects that growth.

The bill would also require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a highway formula modernization study to assess the methods and data that are currently used to apportion Federal-aid highways funds.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/arizona.html#:~:text=Arizona's%20Population%20More%20Than%207,2020%2C%20Up%2011.9%25%20Since%202010>

² http://eadiv.state.wy.us/demog_data/pop2020/2020statepop.htm

³ <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act/funding.cfm>