



CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS
Rep. Greg Stanton (D. AZ-04)
Rep. Mike Lawler (R. NY-17)

Heat Emergency Assistance for Transportation (HEAT) Act

Co-led by Representatives Greg Stanton (D. AZ-04) and Mike Lawler (R. NY-17)

Extreme heat, particularly in the form of heat waves, is an emerging threat to critical transportation infrastructure. **The Heat Emergency Assistance for Transportation Act** would explicitly add extreme heat to the list of covered natural disasters under the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief program. Specifically, the bill will:

- Carve out an emergency relief exception for bridges that have experienced accelerated, sudden physical deterioration because of extreme heat exposure and are now at risk of imminent collapse.
- Direct the Secretary of Transportation to enter into an agreement with the Transportation Board of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine to study the measurable impacts of extreme heat events on federal highways and bridge infrastructure. The results of the study will be reported back to Congress.
- Require the Secretary of Transportation to release a best management practices report to reflect the newest information and advancements in highway and bridge safety as related to extreme heat.

Background:

The full impacts of extreme heat on transportation infrastructure are still being discovered and deserve greater federal attention. Research by **Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability** indicates that high temperatures can cause bridge expansion joints to crack or fail, accelerate the degradation of concrete and steel, and weaken structural integrity over time. This is particularly visible in aging infrastructure, which is now experiencing heat stress far beyond its original design. Federal disaster programs, including the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief program, often fail to explicitly consider extreme heat as a threat to our nation's critical infrastructure.

To learn more about this bill, please email [Alessandra Young](#) with Rep. Stanton's office or [William Layton](#) with Rep. Lawler's office.