



COMMITTED TO IMPROVING SOUTH DAKOTA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

As a former chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Sen. Thune continues to be a leading advocate for federal transportation policy that benefits South Dakota businesses and families.

Highlights of Sen. Thune's Commitment to Investing in Infrastructure

Highways:

- Sen. Thune has long played a leading role in the passage of surface transportation bills that have benefitted South Dakota, including the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, which was signed into law in 2015, and the Surface Transportation Investment Act (S. 2016), parts of which became law in 2021.
- Both bills increase federal investment for highway and transit programs in South Dakota, increase traffic safety funding to protect South Dakota drivers, and provide regulatory relief to certain operators who support the agriculture industry.

Aviation:

- When Sen. Thune served as chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee in 2018, he led a bipartisan effort that resulted in the Senate passage, and eventual enactment, of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018, the longest reauthorization of the agency since 1982.
- The [law](#) increases federal funding through the Airport Improvement Program, modernizes airport infrastructure, better protects consumers, enhances transportation safety and security, and boosts innovation in the aviation industry.

Rail:

- As the former director of the South Dakota railroad division and former chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, Sen. Thune has prioritized key reforms in this industry to benefit shippers and improve rail service throughout South Dakota.
- Thune [authored](#) a bipartisan Surface Transportation Board (STB) reauthorization and reform package that was signed into law in 2015, which increased the accessibility of the STB to smaller shippers and improved the efficiency of dispute resolution between shippers and railroads.
- Thune secured a permanent extension of the Short Line Tax Credit and pushed key reforms to the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing loan program, spurring continued investment in crucial connector lines to keep commodities flowing.