

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF RYAN MCCORMACK
NOMINEE TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR
POLICY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES SENATE**

NOVEMBER 05, 2025

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as you consider my nomination for the position of Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

I am grateful to President Trump for his trust in nominating me for this role, to Senator Blackburn for that kind introduction, and to Secretary Duffy for his faith and support every step of the way.

I also want to introduce and thank my family who are here with me today. My wife Anna is here – Anna and I have been together for nearly thirteen years, and she too is a public servant, currently entering her 14th year as staff in the House of Representatives. We share two beautiful children together ages 3 and 1, both of whom are here with us today too.

At the Department of Transportation, our mantra is “safety.” It is at the forefront of all the work we do, and we take our obligation very seriously.

For myself, I always have understood that the stakes in transportation are high. But even still, early into our tenure we received a sobering reminder of the seriousness of our public duty.

As you all know, on January 29th of this year at DCA when American Airlines Flight 5342 and a US Army Blackhawk helicopter collided over the Potomac River. Sixty-seven lives were lost that night. Secretary Duffy and I were on scene in the immediate aftermath. Seeing families grieve unimaginable loss is something I will never forget.

It is critical we do right by Americans traversing the nation’s roadways, railways, and skies by continuing to put safety first in all that we do. If confirmed I will be

devoted to this purpose and will pay particular attention to further reducing highway fatalities.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently released early estimates for motor vehicle traffic fatalities in the first half of 2025, forecasting an 8.2% reduction in roadways deaths from 2024. These preliminary figures are encouraging, but even still, there is more we can and will do to reduce highway fatalities further. Whether it be from new technology, accelerated project delivery, or cracking down on bad actors on our roads, we must be comprehensive in our approach and let safety be our guide.

I am incredibly fortunate to serve at the Department of Transportation at such a pivotal time when so many advancements are being made in technology that will allow for safer and more efficient transportation. Never before have people and goods moved in such varied ways. We are at the advent of advanced air mobility, autonomous vehicle deployment, drone delivery, and we expect the next five years will see 1,000 commercial space launches – the same number of all space launches combined over the last 40 years. If confirmed, I will work to continue these important efforts.

To foster innovation and technological advancement, I would advance effective regulations that enable further innovation and maintain US leadership in this critical area.

I commit to accelerating project delivery and removing barriers that grant applicants face when accessing federal resources. In particular, I would like to work with this Committee and the Congress on simplifying and streamlining grant programs. There are more than 100 grant programs within the Department, all with variable eligibility criteria, inconsistent definitions, different announcement and awarding procedures, and overlapping focus areas that make the process overly complex for applicants to apply and career staff to process.

In addition, the systems utilized for tracking grant applicants are cumbersome, complex, redundant and opaque. Applicants do not know the status of their grant at various stages of obligation and I would work to ensure the Department is more transparent with applicants.

If confirmed as Under Secretary of the Department of Transportation, I look forward to working with Secretary Duffy, President Trump, and Members of this Committee to make our world-class transportation and infrastructure for America.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering your questions.