

June 19, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Enzi  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget  
379A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
233 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget  
2412 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget  
131 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Cc: Members of the Senate  
Cc: Members of the House

Dear Honorable Members:

Since the early years of the American republic, transportation investments have been highly correlated with expanding economic opportunities. We have known since we built the Erie Canal, inaugurated the first transcontinental railroad service, opened the first subway in Boston, or established Route 66 that transportation investments play a catalytic role in transforming our economy, geography, and social fabric.

These transformative investments delivered real opportunities to the American people—they drove economic growth, expanded access to jobs, enabled a more equitable society, improved our health, safety, and environment all while building stronger, more vibrant communities. If we understood the power of transportation investments 200 years ago, certainly we should be able to recognize their efficacy today. Yet that reality is still often overlooked or misunderstood.

We, the undersigned, write to urge you to recognize the power transportation investments can and continue to have on making our communities dynamic, livable, and connected places while strengthening our country's position in the global marketplace.

We want all American communities, large and small, across the country to benefit from a multimodal transportation network. We want to rebuild and improve our transportation infrastructure and that begins by ensuring that projects and programs in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act are fully funded and that the administration's proposed cuts to key federal transportation programs—including the BUILD (previously TIGER) program, the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grants (CIG), and long-distance passenger rail programs—are defeated and funding for these programs are secured or enhanced.

As you consider funding levels for fiscal year (FY) 2019, we urge you to prioritize federal investments in our national transportation system, specifically for public transportation and passenger rail service. We request funding for the following:

- FTA's CIG program at or above the FY18 level of \$2.645 billion with continued support for 56 projects in 41 communities that are anticipating funding by requiring the USDOT to sign Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGA's), advance projects through the pipeline, and obligate these dollars so construction can begin;
- Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants program at or above the FY18 level of \$1.5 billion;
- Amtrak's national network at or above the FY18 level \$1.292 billion and \$650 million for the Northeast Corridor;
- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure Safety and Improvement (CRISI) grants at or above the FY18 level of \$592 million; and
- Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) grants at or above the FY18 level of \$20 million.

We further request that you protect the Highway Trust Fund and Mass Transit Account in the FY19 budget process.

Capital investments for transit also support high-wage manufacturing jobs producing components for trains and buses. The supply chain for public transportation is as deep as it is wide, touching every corner of the country and employing thousands of Americans who produce everything from tracks, to seats, windows, communications equipment, wheels, and everything else in between. For example, recent capital improvements made in just four transit systems—San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, and Portland—supported jobs in 21 states.

There is a strong return on investment for public transportation. Every \$1 billion spent annually on public transportation supports an average of 21,800 jobs. And for every \$1 invested in public transportation, approximately \$4 are generated in economic returns, exceeding the returns generated by transportation investments in roads alone. In addition, passenger trains are economic engines for the towns they serve: for every \$1 invested in passenger trains, communities see a \$3 return in additional economic activity. Amtrak leverages the \$1.5 billion in federal grants it receives to a total spending impact of \$8.3 billion per year, supporting 103,000 jobs.

In FY18, Congress exceeded the funding commitments established by the FAST Act. We urge you to sustain this investment in programs that are critical to rebuilding our infrastructure and supporting local economic development.

Local communities rely on the federal government to be a reliable partner in building and maintaining their transportation investments. Eliminating and dramatically reducing programs as suggested in the administration's FY19 budget would undermine the investments of time and money made by local communities. Implementing these budget cuts would slash investment in transportation and represent a failure to the American public.

These cuts would have a devastating impact on communities by eliminating manufacturing jobs, reducing benefits to the economy, paring down transportation services, and turning away local and private dollars that would have gone to transportation investments if projects were assured a federal partner.

For these reasons, we urge you to continue to provide robust funding for federal transportation programs in the FY19 appropriations process and to protect the Highway Trust Fund and the Mass Transit Account in the FY19 budget process.

Thank you again for your commitment to improving America's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Alabama

The Hon. Susan Hamilton  
Mayor  
Town of Perdido Beach

Christopher Burks  
Founding Principal  
Urban Analysis

Arizona

Evren Sonmez  
Program Manager  
Living Streets Alliance

Arkansas

Erika Wilhite  
Artistic Director  
Artist's Laboratory Theatre

Billy Altom  
Executive Director  
Association of Programs for Rural  
Independent Living

California

Steve Adams  
City Council Member  
City of Riverside

Eugene jud  
Faculty emeritus  
California State University San Luis  
Obispo

Jack Swearingen  
Chair  
Friends of SMART (Sonoma-Marin Area  
Rail Transit)

Jennifer A. Gill  
Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee

Adam Lane  
Vice President of Policy and Programs  
Los Angeles Business Council

James Corless  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sacramento Area Council of  
Governments

Ronald DeCarli  
Executive Director  
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

Annie Dreshfield  
Head of Communications  
Scoop

Stuart Cohen  
Executive Director  
TransForm

Roger Dickinson  
Executive Director  
Transportation California

Colorado

The Hon. Bud Starker  
Mayor  
City of Wheat Ridge

Will Toor  
Transportation Program Director  
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

## Connecticut

Karen Burnaska  
Coordinator  
Transit for Connecticut

## Florida

Paula Ryan  
City Commissioner  
City of West Palm Beach

Taylor Johnson  
VP Transportation  
American Association of Private  
Railroad Car Owners

Darla Letourneau  
Steering Committee Member  
BikeWalkLee

Daniel Knickelbein  
Government Affairs Manager  
Broward MPO

Robyn Chiarelli  
Executive Director  
Downtown Fort Lauderdale  
Transportation Management  
Association

Karen Kress  
Director of transportation and planning  
Tampa Downtown Partnership

Justin Willits  
Tampa Heights Civic Association - NW  
Quad Representative  
Tampa Heights Civic Association

## Georgia

Chris Dowd  
Operations Coordinator  
Athens for Everyone

Art Sheldon  
President  
Excalibur Systems

Heidi Davison  
Advisory Committee Member  
Mayors Innovation Project

Kipling Dunlap  
Mobility Concierge  
North American Properties

Darin Givens  
Co-Founder  
ThreadATL

## Hawaii

Jennifer Sabas  
Director  
Move Oahu Forward

## Illinois

Dylan Parker  
Alderman  
City of Rock Island

Kim Stone  
Councilwoman  
City of Highland Park

The Hon. Chris Koos  
Mayor  
Town of Normal

Kyle Whitehead  
Government Relations Director  
Active Transportation Alliance

Margaret aka Peggy Laemle  
Chair, Bike Walk Advisory Group  
Bike Walk Advisory Group of Highland  
Park, IL

Karl Gnadt  
Managing Director  
Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit  
District

Joseph Szabo  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for  
Planning

Kevin Brubaker  
Deputy Director  
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Audrey Wennink  
Director of Transportation  
Metropolitan Planning Council

## Indiana

Duane Chatten  
City Councilor  
City of Vincennes

Julie Thomas  
County Commissioner  
Monroe County

Lew May  
General Manager  
Bloomington Public Transportation  
Corporation

Sarah Ryterband  
Chair  
Bloomington Monroe County MPO-CAC

Lori Kaplan  
Executive Director  
Central Indiana Regional  
Transportation Authority

Kim Irwin  
Executive Director  
Health by Design

Mark Fisher  
Chief Policy Officer  
Indy Chamber

James Turnwald  
Executive Director  
Michiana Area Council of Governments  
(MACOG)

Ty Warner  
Executive Director  
Northwestern Indiana Regional  
Planning Commission

## Iowa

Jay Byers  
CEO  
Greater Des Moines Partnership

## Louisiana

Jessica Kemp  
Vice President  
Center for Planning Excellence

Alex Posorske  
Executive Director  
Ride New Orleans

John Spain  
Chair  
Southern Rail Commission

Jeanne George, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair  
Sustainable Transportation Action  
Committee

## Maine

Belinda Ray  
City Councilor  
City of Portland

## Maryland

Brian O'Malley  
President & CEO  
Central Maryland Transportation  
Alliance

## Massachusetts

Rick Dimino  
President & CEO  
A Better City

Brad Bellows  
Co-President  
Association for Public Transportation

Scott Zadakis  
Executive Director  
CrossTown Connect TMA

Marc Draisen  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Timothy Brennan  
Executive. Director  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Thomas O'Brien  
PVTA Riders United

Chris Dempsey  
Director  
Transportation for Massachusetts

Wendy Landman  
Executive Director  
WalkBoston

## Minnesota

Brian Nelson  
President  
All Aboard Minnesota

William Schroeer  
Executive Director  
East Metro Strong

Kathryn Hoffman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Minnesota Center for Environmental  
Advocacy

Jessica Treat  
Executive Director  
Move Minnesota

## Mississippi

The Hon. Phil Fisher  
Mayor  
City of Clinton

The Hon. Errick Simmons  
Mayor  
City of Greenville

The Hon. Allen Latimer  
Mayor  
City of Horn Lake

The Hon. Steve Rosenthal  
Mayor  
City of Indianola

The Hon. Chokwe Antar Lumumba  
Mayor  
City of Jackson

The Hon. Jimmy Cockroft  
Mayor  
City of Kosciusko

The Hon. Taylor Casey  
Alderman  
City of Kosciusko

The Hon. Tim Kyle  
Alderman at Large  
City of Kosciusko

The Hon. Darwin Nelson  
Mayor  
City of Lucedale

The Hon. Robert Boykin  
Mayor  
City of Macon

The Hon. Whitney Rawlings  
Mayor  
City of McComb

The Hon. Todd Booth  
Mayor  
City of Mendenhall

The Hon. Percy Bland  
Mayor  
City of Meridian

The Hon. Robyn Tannehill  
Mayor  
City of Oxford

The Hon. Jake Windham  
Mayor  
City of Pearl

The Hon. James A. Young  
Mayor  
City of Philadelphia

The Hon. Rossie Creel  
Mayor  
City of Poplarville

The Hon. Eddie Fulton  
Mayor  
City of Quitman

The Hon. Gene McGee  
Mayor  
City Of Ridgeland

The Hon. Fred Miller Miller  
Mayor  
City of Rolling Fork

N.C. Tom Ferguson  
Mayor  
City of Hernando

Robert Ellis  
Alderman  
City of Kosciusko

The Hon. Scott Fricker  
Mayor  
Town of Abbeville

The Hon. Jeffrey Smith  
Mayor  
Town Of Ecu

The Hon. Les Childress  
Mayor  
Town of Flora

The Hon. H. Glen Barlow  
Mayor  
Town of French Camp

The Hon. Wilbert Carr  
mayor  
Town of Heidelberg

The Hon. Ryshonda Beechem  
Mayor  
Town of Pelahatchie

The Hon. Kellie Phipps  
Mayor  
Town of Taylorsville

The Hon. Kenneth Broome  
Mayor  
Town of Utica

The Hon. Mel Hawthorne  
Mayor  
Town of Vaiden

The Hon. Brian Gomillion  
Mayor  
Town of Walnut Grove

The Hon. Patti Pettit  
Mayor  
Town of Woodland

The Hon. Diane Delaware  
Mayor  
Yazoo City

Hart Pettit  
City Clerk  
City of Kosciusko

Blake Wallace  
Executive Director  
Hinds County Economic Development  
Authority

David Taylor  
Planning Director  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan  
Planning Organization

The Hon. Harry Corder  
Mayor  
Town Of Algoma

### Missouri

The Hon. Sylvester James, Jr.  
Mayor  
City of Kansas City

Kimberly Cella  
Executive Director  
Citizens for Modern Transit

Cheryl Price  
Chairperson  
Columbia, MO Public Transit Advisory  
Commission

### Nebraska

Clyde & Mary Anderson  
Transportation Issues Chair  
Nebraska Chapter - Sierra Club

Cynthia Sanders  
Transit Director  
Village of Guide Rock Public Transit

### Nevada

Jenny Brekhus  
Council Member  
City of Reno

### New Hampshire

James Holcomb  
Director  
Transport New Hampshire

### New Jersey

The Hon. Gayle Brill Mittler  
Mayor  
Borough of Highland Park

Karen Meneghin  
Community outreach advocate  
Hoboken Residents for a Public

James Kirkos  
Chief Executive Officer  
Meadowlands Regional Chamber of

Roger Heitmann  
Boardmember  
Riverview Neighborhood Association



New York

Gregory Young  
Supervisor, City of Gloversville Ward 5  
Fulton County Board of Supervisors

Douglas Funke  
President  
Citizens for Regional Transit

Henry Raess  
Event Manager  
GObike Buffalo

Jennifer Dotson  
Executive Director  
Ithaca Carshare/Bike Walk  
Tompkins/Center for Community  
Transportation

Edward Ubiera  
Director of Policy  
LISC NYC

North Carolina

Linda Bailey  
Executive Director  
NACTO

Karen Rindge  
Executive Director  
WakeUP Wake County

Ohio

The Hon. Don McGowan  
Member  
WaysSouth

Daniel Horrigan  
Mayor  
City of Akron

Sharon Pearson  
City Council Member  
City of Oberlin

Phyllis Cleveland  
City Council member  
City of Cleveland

Rob Festenstein  
Executive Director  
Center for Independent Living Options

R. Thomas Homan  
City Manager  
City of Delaware

Akshai Singh  
Lead Organizer  
Clevelanders for Public Transit

Crystal Dandridge  
Activist  
Crystals Unions

Dan Bates  
President and CEO  
Greater Hamilton Chamber of  
Commerce

Alison Goebel  
Executive Director  
Greater Ohio Policy Center

Joshua Anderson  
Executive Director  
HHWP Community Action Commission

Ben Capelle  
CEO  
Laketran

Johnannes Christian  
Executive Director  
Mid-Ohio Board for Independent Living  
Environment (MOBILE)

Katherine Foley  
Executive Director  
Services for Independent Living (SIL)

Valerie Novack  
Disability Rights Advocate  
The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

## Oregon

The Hon. Pam Davies  
Executive Director  
Western Reserve Independent Living  
Center

The Hon. Dan Saltzman  
Transportation Commissioner  
City of Portland

Tim Knapp  
Mayor  
City of Wilsonville

Leslie Carlson  
Principal  
Brink Communications

Edward McGlone  
Director of Public Affairs  
Lane Transit District

Craig Dirksen  
Metro Councilor  
OregonMetro

Robinson Foster  
Executive Director  
Steel Interstate Coalition

The Hon. Denny Doyle  
Mayor of Beaverton  
City of Beaverton

The Hon. Christine Lundberg  
Mayor  
City of Springfield

Andy Duyck  
Chair  
Washington County

Brenda Wilson  
Executive Director - Central Lane MPO  
Central Lane MPO

Chris Hagerbaumer  
Deputy Director  
Oregon Environmental Council

Kris Nelson  
Principal  
Phoenix Finance

Gerik Kransky  
Policy Director  
The Street Trust

Mark Gamba  
Mayor  
City of Milwaukie

The Hon. John Cook  
Mayor  
City of Tigard

Rob Zako  
Executive Director  
Better Eugene-Springfield  
Transportation (BEST)

Rob Inerfeld  
Transportation Planning Manager  
City of Eugene

Ismael Armenta  
Transportation Justice Advocate  
Oregon Walks

Kari Turner  
Principal  
PIVOT Architecture

## Pennsylvania

The Hon. Aaron Antrim  
President  
Trillium Solutions, Inc.

William Peduto  
Mayor  
City of Pittsburgh

Brandon Mendoza  
Co-Director  
Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

## South Carolina

Chris Sandvig  
Director of Policy  
Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment  
Group

Tennessee

William Hamilton  
Executive Director  
Hungryneck Straphangers / Best Frinds  
of Lowcountry Transit

Blythe Bailey  
Administrator  
Chattanooga Department of  
Transportation

Steven Sondheim  
Coordinator  
Citizens for TDOT Reform

Ralph Schulz  
President & CEO  
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

Axel Ringe  
Conservation Chair  
Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Utah

Marilyn Toppins  
Chairperson  
Union County Business & Professional  
Association

Alfred Knotts  
Transportation Planning Manager  
Park City Municipal Corporation

Virginia

Andrew Gruber  
Executive Director  
Wasatch Front Regional Council

Washington

Jonathan Nye  
President  
Hampton Roads Public Transit Alliance  
(HART)

James Hill  
City Councilmember  
City of Kelso

Jon Pascal  
Councilmember  
City of Kirkland

Jay Arnold  
Deputy Mayor  
City of Kirkland

Dave Asher  
Councilmember  
City of Kirkland

The Hon. Penny Sweet  
Councilmember  
City of Kirkland

The Hon. Nicola Smith  
Mayor  
City of Lynnwood

Jenny Durkan  
Mayor, City of Seattle  
City of Seattle

The Hon. Ty Stober  
Councilmember  
City of Vancouver

Amy Walen  
Mayor  
City of Kirkland

Bobby Jackson  
County Commissioner  
Lewis County

Tom Neir  
Councilmember  
City of Kirkland

Jamyang Dorjee  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Community Transit

Ryan Acker  
Executive Director  
Community Transportation Association  
of the Northwest

Ted Sprague  
President  
Cowlitz Economic Development Council

John McDonagh  
President/CEO  
Greater Vancouver Chamber of  
Commerce

Hester Serebrin  
Policy Director  
Transportation Choices Coalition

Richard Berkowitz  
Director, Pacific Coast Operations  
Transportation Institute

Washington, DC

Derrick Wojcik-Damers  
General Manager  
Twin Transit

Heidi Simon  
Communications & Partnerships  
Director  
America Walks

Sigute Meilus  
Executive Director  
Americans for Transit

Jalissa Coffee  
Director of Operations  
Conference of Minority Transportation  
Officials

Robert Puentes  
President/CEO  
Eno Center for Transportation

Eli Briggs  
Sr. Government Affairs Director  
National Association of County and City  
Health Officials

Adriann Murawski  
State & Local Government Affairs  
Representative  
National Association of REALTORS

Lauri Ng  
Senior Policy Advisor  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific  
American Community Development  
(CAPACD)

Kyle Simpson  
Senior Government Affairs Manager  
National Recreation and Park  
Association

Andrew Linhardt  
Deputy Director Clean Transportation  
Sierra Club

Linda Bailey  
Executive Director  
NACTO

West Virginia

Javier Gamboa  
Senior Legislative Representative  
The Trust for Public Land

Wisconsin

Saleem Salameh  
Deputy Director  
KY-OH-WV Interstate Planning  
Commission

Jeremy Gragert  
City Council Member  
City of Eau Claire

Brandon Buchanan  
County Board Supervisor  
Eau Claire County

Thomas Wagener  
Transit Manager  
Eau Claire Transit

Susan De Vos  
President  
Madison Area Bus Advocates

Jenny McKenzie  
Transportation Supervisor  
North Central Health Care

Carrie Porter Diamond  
Transportation Specialist  
Wisconsin Association of Mobility  
Managers (WAMM)