

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chair, House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing
and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pat Toomey
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

CC: Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy

Dear Chairs DeFazio and Brown and Ranking Members Graves and Toomey:

We request an additional \$39.3 billion in any economic stimulus or relief legislation to preserve public transportation through the rest of the pandemic and into the economic recovery. Public transit is essential to sustain our communities during the COVID-19 crisis and make our economic recovery equitable and sustainable. However transit has been devastated by the pandemic, with ridership losses and declining local revenue sources putting this essential service at risk. While the emergency relief already provided has delayed devastating cuts to service, without additional support public transit agencies will once again be forced to consider severe service cuts, threatening the wellbeing of millions of essential workers and our entire communities.

We are grateful for the support Congress has already provided for public transit through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA). These emergency funds have succeeded in preserving essential service, preventing layoffs, and enabling over 2.8 million essential workers who rely on public transit to continue to reach their jobs. These essential workers power healthcare, grocery, sanitation, and other sectors upon which millions more Americans rely. In addition, millions of Americans continue to count on public transportation as an essential connection to jobs, food, healthcare, education, and other critical services.

While vaccinations represent hope for an end to the public health crisis, the fiscal crisis facing public transit agencies will not end with the vaccine. According to an analysis by TransitCenter, “without further assistance, some agencies will have to confront service cuts this spring, before cities begin to recover from the pandemic. Other agencies will have to contemplate cuts in the fall, undercutting a fragile economic recovery.” Compounding this, public transit agencies

already face increased expenditures for cleaning and revenue losses due to COVID-19 that will continue long after the public health crisis is over.

According to an independent economic analysis highlighted by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), public transit agencies face a projected funding shortfall of \$39.3 billion through 2023. These funds are necessary to preserve essential service and support our economic recovery. We urge you to provide an additional \$39.3 billion for public transit in any upcoming economic stimulus or relief legislation.

Sincerely,

Stacie Reidenbaugh
10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

Julia Gerasimenko
Active Transportation Alliance

Eliza Cava
Audubon Naturalist Society

Rob Zako
Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation
(BEST)

John Tallmadge
Bike Durham

Ady Leverette
Business for a Better Portland

Robert Dean
Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)

Rocky Randels, Mayor Emeritus
City of Cape Canaveral, FL

Steve Adams
City of Milwaukie, OR

Donald M. Goldberg
Climate Law & Policy Project

Stewart Schwartz
Coalition for Smarter Growth

Matthew Mitchell
Delaware Valley Association of Rail

Jon Geeting
5th Square PAC

Brad Bellows
Association for Public Transportation

Barbara A Coe
Barbara A Coe & Assoc

Piep van Heuven
Bicycle Colorado

Jed Weeks
Bikemore (Baltimore)

Nanci Wilkinson or Lee McNair (co-leaders)
Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry

Brian O'Malley
Central Maryland Transportation Alliance

Mayor Steve Williams
City of Huntington, WV

Niel Laudati
City of Springfield, OR

Miguel Solis
Coalition for a New Dallas

Melissa Cunningham
Coalition for Sustainable Transportation

Jill Locantore

Passengers

Sally Stolz
DontWiden270.org

Shannon Baker-Branstetter
Dream Corps Green For All

Will Schroeer
East Metro Strong

Ann Mesnikoff
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Jack Swearengen
Friends of SMART

Kari Schlosshauer
Getting There Together Coalition

Cathy Bennett
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

Matt Smith
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce

John Flaherty
Grow Smart RI

Tim Maloney
Hoosier Environmental Council

Basav Sen
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy
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Jessica Meaney
Investing in Place

Michael N. Maltezos
Kenall Manufacturing Co.

Jennifer A. Gill
LABAC

Denver Streets Partnership

Paul Sturm
Downtown Residents Advocacy Network
(Baltimore)

Gary Gover
Earth Day Mobile Bay, Inc.

Doug O'Malley
Environment New Jersey

Jay Blazek Crossley
Farm&City

Tejas Kotak
GA Sierra Club

Donald C. Fry
Greater Baltimore Committee, Inc.

Alison Goebel
Greater Ohio Policy Center

Kirk Hovenkotter
Greater Redmond Transportation
Management Association

Kim Irwin
Health by Design

Cynthia Gibson
Idaho Walk Bike Alliance

Michael Kodransky
Institute for Transportation & Development
Policy (ITDP)

Karen Fortunati
Milford City Clerk

Claudia Balducci
King County Council

Michael Leon Guerrero
Labor Network for Sustainability

Jonathan Brooks
LINK Houston

Susan De Vos, President
Madison Area Bus Advocates

Lizzi Weyant
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Kevin Amézaga
Miami Riders Alliance

Christopher Conklin
Montgomery County Department of
Transportation

Jennifer Carlat
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

Christopher Schuyler
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

NJ State Chamber of Commerce
NJ State Chamber of Commerce

Kate Mattice
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

Dylan Parker
Office of 5th Ward Alderman, Rock Island, IL

Lisa Daglian
Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the
MTA (PCAC)

Kris Nelson
Phoenix Finance

Matthew Baker
Planning and Conservation League

Brian Fritsch
Regional Plan Association

Alex Posorske
Ride New Orleans

Stacy Thompson
LivableStreets Alliance

Dave Williams
Metro Atlanta Chamber

Audrey Wennink
Metropolitan Planning Council

Sean Hammond
Michigan Environmental Council

Eli Lipmen
Move LA

Peter Kasabach
New Jersey Future

Barbara E. Kauffman
Newark Regional Business Partnership

Aaron Brown
No More Freeways

Jaqi Cohen
NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign

Noa Banayan
PeopleForBikes

Nat Lownes
Philly Transit Riders Union

Laura Chu Wiens
Pittsburghers for Public Transit

Sean Jeans-Gail
Rail Passengers Association

Rachael Fauss
Reinvent Albany

Danny Pearlstein
Riders Alliance

Rodd Lee, AGM External Affairs
SF Bay Area Rapid Transit

Breean Beggs
Spokane City Council President

Eric McClure
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Tampa Downtown Partnership

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The Transit Coalition

Jessica Dauphin
Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee

Kelsey Mesher
Transportation Choices Coalition

Chris Dempsey
Transportation For Massachusetts

Felicia Park-Rogers
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Matt Casale
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Lisa Guthrie, Executive Director
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Walk Bike Nashville

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Trip Pollard
Southern Environmental Law Center

Jessica Engelman
SpokAT

Sustain Charlotte

Sarah Iannarone
The Street Trust

Odetta MacLeish-White
TransFormation Alliance

Yasha Zarrinkelk
Transit Forward Philadelphia

Beth Osborne
Transportation for America

Megan Owens
Transportation Riders United (Detroit)

Peter G. Gregory
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional
Commission

Scott White
VeloPaso Bicycle-Pedestrian Coalition

Nathan Spencer
WakeUP Wake County

Stacey Beuttell
WalkBoston

Marlene Pohl
Wisconsin Transit Rider's Alliance