

June 21, 2022

The Honorable David Price
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
2358A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
2358A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart and Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Collins:

We write to you today to urgently ask you to keep the promise of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) throughout the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations process, particularly when it comes to programs that make transit more affordable and accessible.

With great economic uncertainty throughout our economy and rising gas prices, public transit is more important than ever. Public transit is not only an engine for economic growth and jobs; it is also an important bulwark against our dependence on foreign oil.

At this critical moment, the IIJA gives cities and states the ability to expand public transit options, replace thousands of deficient transit vehicles, including buses, with clean, zero-emission vehicles, and improve accessibility for the elderly and people with disabilities. But that is not possible unless Congress fulfills its promise to the American public and fully funds the vital programs contained in the bill.

We particularly urge you to fund:

FTA's Capital Investment Grants Program (CIG): The Capital Investment Grant program is a competitive grant that can fund capital improvements to both large and small transit systems. The ILJA funds CIG at \$4.6 billion per year, with \$1.6 billion of that coming as advance appropriations and \$3 billion to be appropriated annually. We ask that Congress fund the program at its full \$4.6 billion via the FY23 appropriations process.

RAISE and MEGA Competitive Grant Programs: The Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program, formerly known as BUILD and TIGER, funds a diverse array of capital improvements in surface transportation projects and has been an important source of support for transit and safe walking or bike access to transit. The new National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) program will provide grants on a competitive basis to support projects of national and regional significance, including transit, which will help provide new multimodal transportation options in areas currently lacking them. The IIJA guarantees \$1.5 billion to RAISE but authorizes Congress to add \$1.5 billion in annual appropriations as well as \$2 billion for MEGA. We ask that Congress fund the combined RAISE and MEGA line item at its full \$3.5 billion, in addition to the funding guaranteed in the infrastructure law.

Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP): The ATIIP was created in the IIJA as a competitive grant program that could fund the construction of safe and connected active transportation (biking and walking) infrastructure to key destinations within and between communities. Such investments are essential to retrofit dangerous roadways to provide safe access to transit service. The law authorized the program to receive \$200 million annually, but did not provide any of that as advance appropriations. Given the high demand for this investment in communities across the country, we ask that Congress fully fund the ATIIP at \$500 million as proposed in the Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act (S.684/H.R.2991).

Public transit is our route to equitable economic growth and jobs. But that cannot be accomplished without full funding for programs that fund transit projects and efforts to improve access to transit. We cannot afford to miss this historic opportunity and need Congress to fulfill the promise it made in the IIJA.

Sincerely,

LeeAnn Hall, Coordinator, National Campaign for Transit Justice
Beth Osborne, Executive Director, Transportation for America
Deron Lovaas, Senior Policy Advisor, Natural Resources Defense Council
Corinne Kisner, Executive Director, National Association of City Transportation Officials
Matt Casale, Environment Campaigns Director, U.S. PIRG
Patrick Wojahn, Director of Government Relations, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
-- Initiators --

Danny Pearlstein, Policy & Communications Director, Riders Alliance
Will Tanzman, Executive Director, The People's Lobby
Laura Chu Wiens, Executive Director, Pittsburghers for Public Transit
Karen Burnaska, Coordinator, Transit for Connecticut
Boyce Sherwin, Chair, Malone Complete Streets Advisory Board
Brian Johns, Director, Virginia Organizing
Cheryl Richardson, Director, Anchorage Citizens Coalition
Josh Ostroff, Interim Director, Transportation for Massachusetts
Sarah Iannarone, Executive Director, The Street Trust - Greater Portland, OR
Meg Fencil, Director of Engagement and Impact, Sustain Charlotte
Corey Aldridge, CEO & General Manager, Mountain Line (MUTD)
Megan Owens, Executive Director, Transportation Riders United (Detroit)
Brett Morgan, Transportation and Great Communities Policy Manager, 1000 Friends of Oregon
Amy Rynell, Executive Director, Active Transportation Alliance (Chicago, IL)
Veralucia Mendoza, Disability Rights Advocate, Housing and Transportation, The Ability Center
of Greater Toledo
Amy Thomson, Transportation Policy Analyst, TransForm
Ines Sigel, Interim Executive Director, LINK Houston
Matthew Baker, Policy Director, Planning and Conservation League
Jesse O'Sullivan, Policy Counsel, Circulate San Diego
Susan De Vos, President, Madison Area Bus Advocates
Jenny Brekhus, Council Member, City of Reno
Katherine Garcia, Clean Transportation for All Campaign Director, Sierra Club
Gary Gover, President and Chairman, Earth Day Mobile Bay, Inc.
John Tallmadge, Executive Director, Bike Durham
Samantha Herr, Executive Director, North American Bikeshare & Scootershare Association
(NABSA)
Kate Mattice, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
Jessica Dauphin, President and CEO, Transit Alliance
Peter Kasabach, Executive Director, New Jersey Future
William Schroeer, Executive Director, East Metro Strong
Cathy Van Maren, Chair, La Crosse Area Transit Advocates
Basav Sen, Climate Policy Director, Institute for Policy Studies
Nat Lownes, organizer, Philly Transit Riders Union
Michael Kodransky, US Director, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
Yasha Zarrinkelk, Advocacy Director, Transit Forward Philadelphia
Jed Weeks, Interim Executive Director, Bikemore
Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth
Bob Dean, CEO, Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)
Stacy Thompson, Executive Director, LivableStreets Alliance
Jill Locantore, Executive Director, Denver Streets Partnership
Jessica Meaney, Executive Director, Investing in Place
Doug O'Malley, Director, Environment New Jersey

Amy Stelly, Executive Director, Claiborne Avenue Alliance Design Studio
Eric McClure, Executive Director, StreetsPAC
Eli Lipmen, Deputy Director, Move LA
Debra Ryan, Transit Advocate, Former City of Wausau Alder
Cathy Van Maren, President, Wisconsin Transit Riders Alliance
Stacie Reidenbaugh, President and CEO, 10,000 Friends of PA
Rob Zko, Executive Director, Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST)
Jay Crossley, Executive Director, Farm&City
Rachel Yoka, Vice President, International Parking & Mobility Institute
Bart Reed, Executive Director , The Transit Coalition
Lee McNair, Co-leader , Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry
Ann Silver, Chief Executive Officer, Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Michael Maltezos, Director, Transportation and Parking Lighting Sales, Kenall Manufacturing
Co.
Rick Coates, Executive Director, EcoRing
Chris Sandvig, Executive Director, Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania
Khrystle Bullock, Climate Justice Campaigner , HipHop Caucus
Tara Thornton, Deputy Director , Endangered Species Coalition
Dena Driscoll, Co-Chair, 5th Square, Philadelphia
Gavriella Keyles, Senior Research & Policy Analyst, Earthjustice
Sarah Clark Stuart, Executive Director, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
Felicia Park-Rogers, Director of Regional Infrastructure Projects, Tri-State Transportation
Campaign
James Celenza, Director, RICOSH
Mag Kim, Program Coordinator, Together for Brothers
Sean Jackson, National Water Campaigns Coordinator, Clean Water Action
Jessica Olson, Vice President, Policy, CALSTART
Sara Wright, Transportation Program Director, Oregon Environmental Council
Robert Dean, CEO, Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)
Andrea Marpillero Colomina, Sustainable Communities Program Director, GreenLatinos
Caleb Merendino, Co-Founder, Waterway Advocates
Kim Irwin, Executive Director, Health by Design
Sam Rockwell, Executive Director, Move Minnesota
Scott White, Policy Director, Velo Paso Bicycle-Pedestrian Coalition
Michael Maltezos, Director, Transportation and Parking Lighting, Kenall Manufacturing Co.
Gary Gover, President and Chairman, Earth Day Mobile Bay, Inc.
Eli Lipmen, Deputy Director, Move LA
Dan Raudebaugh, Executive Director , Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE)
Scott White, Policy Director , Velo Paso Bicycle-Pedestrian Coalition
John Flaherty, Deputy Director, Grow Smart RI
Nathan Spencer, Executive Director, WakeUP Wake County
Chris Sandvig, Executive Director, Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania
Sylvia Parsons, Transportation Working Group Co-Chair, 350 Mass
John Kaehny, Executive Director, Reinvent Albany

Susan Hurley, Executive Director, Chicago Jobs with Justice
Darien Davis, Government Affairs Advocate, Climate & Clean Energy, League of Conservation Voters (LCV)
Elise Jones, Executive Director, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
Pegah Jalali, Environmental Policy Analyst, Colorado Fiscal Institute
Mary Lim-Lampe, JD, Executive Director, Genesis: Bay Area Affiliate of the Gamaliel Network
Brian O'Malley, President & CEO, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Marie Venner, Chair, Small Business Alliance
Fran Aguirre, President, Unite North Metro Denver
Nicole Murray, Co-Chair, NYC Democratic Socialists of America, Transit Justice Subcommittee
Nick DeMarsh, Organizer, Milwaukee Transit Riders Union
Christopher Ramirez, Executive Director, Together for Brothers (T4B)
Fred Kirsch, Director, Community for Sustainable Energy
Clayton Dewey, Ecosocialist Committee Chair, Denver Democratic Socialists of America
Patricia Raub, Chair, RI Transit Riders
Eliot Baskin, Rabbi, Together Colorado
Janice Brown, Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood
Christine Canaly, Director, San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Amy Petré Hill, Reverend, Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries
ANDREW Hussein, OWNER / Founder / COO, Pittsburgh Mobile Bus Information Hotline
Emmett Hopkins, National Organizer, Climate Mobilization Project
Andrea Marpillero Colomina, Sustainable Communities Program Director, GreenLatinos
Noa Banayan, Director of Federal Affairs, PeopleForBikes
Danny Katz, Executive Director, Colorado Public Interest Research Group (CoPIRG)
Alison Burchell, Co-founder, board member, Clean Energy Action
Alison Burchell, Co-founder, Board memeber, Empower Our Future
Paolo Solorzano, Organizer, Denver Metro Transit Rider's Union
Elizabetha Stacishin, Climate Lead, Indivisible Colorado