

National Campaign Transit Justice

A project of just|strategy

May 9, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director, Office of Management and Budget
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Director Young,

We write to you today because we are concerned that the Biden Administration's proposed rule requiring state departments of transportation to measure greenhouse gas emissions and establish targets to lower those emissions has not yet been completed. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, we urge you to move this rule through the regulatory process without further delay.

As you are aware, the transportation sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Because of this, there is no time to waste as record amounts of federal taxpayer funds are already flowing to states thanks to the infrastructure law (the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or IIJA).

Federal transportation law requires the Department of Transportation to establish a framework for assessing the performance of our surface transportation network. As part of that framework, this rule will ensure that federal grantees measure greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and set targets for reducing those emissions. The rule does not establish targets or regulate states' transportation plans. Instead, each state will set its own targets and adopt its own strategies for reaching them. States will regularly report on their progress, increasing

transparency for taxpayers around the use of federal funds. This approach aligns with the federal-state partnership that has characterized the federal transportation program for decades. The rule is also very popular, with more than 100,000 comments in support of the Department of Transportation's proposed greenhouse gas rule were submitted during the comment period.

IIJA is a historic investment in our nation's infrastructure, and the public has a right to know how those funds affect our climate future. The addition of the greenhouse gas measure to the Department's existing performance measurement framework will shine needed light on the climate impacts of these investments and lead to more informed decision-making.

The climate crisis is not coming; it is here now. And given that urgency, we ask for your support in quickly finalizing this rule to meet the moment of crisis we are in.

Sincerely,

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania
1000 Friends of Iowa
1000 Friends of Oregon
350 Mass
350.org
Active Transportation Alliance
ActiveSGV
Alaska Environment
Arizona PIRG
Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation
Bike Durham
BikeLA (formerly the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition)
BikeWalkNC
CALPIRG
Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)
Center for Popular Democracy
Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
City of Des Moines
City of Reno, NV
Clean Air Council
Clean Energy Action
Climate Reality Project Chicago Metro
Colorado Dem. Party - Energy and Environment Initiative
Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Colorspace Architecture & Urban Design
Commuters Take Action
ConnPIRG
CoPIRG

Day One

Denver Streets Partnership
Detroit Greenways Coalition
Detroit People's Platform
Earth Day Mobile Bay, Inc.
East Metro Strong
Empower Our Future
Environment America
Environment California
Environment Colorado
Environment Connecticut
Environment Georgia
Environment Illinois
Environment Maryland
Environment Massachusetts
Environment New Jersey
Environment Oregon
Environment Texas
Environment Virginia
Environment Washington
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Evergreen Action
Farm&City
Florida PIRG
Friends of Caltrain
Frog Ferry
Genesis
Georgia PIRG
Go Green Illinois
Greater Greater Washington
Grow Smart RI
Hoosier Environmental Council
Illinois PIRG
Indivisible Colorado
Iowa PIRG
LA Forward
Labor Network for Sustainability
LINK Houston
Maryland PIRG
Massachusetts Action for Justice
MASSPIRG
Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania
MoPIRG
Mothers Out Front

Move California
Move Redmond
National Association of City Transportation Officials
Natural Resources Defense Council
NCPIRG
NHPIRG
NJPIRG
NMPIRG
No More Freeways
Ohio PIRG
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon
OSPIRG
PA - Jewish Earth Alliance
PennEnvironment
PennPIRG
PeopleForBikes
PIRGIM
Pittsburghers for Public Transit
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Rekor Systems
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Rethink35
RI Transit Riders
RIPIRG
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Seamless Bay Area
Sierra Club
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
Streets For All
StreetsPAC
Sustain Charlotte
Sustainable Claremont
TexPIRG
The Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
The Climate Reality Project: Chicago Metro Chapter
The Street Trust
Together for Brothers
Transit Forward Philadelphia
TransitMatters
Transportation Choices Coalition
Transportation for Massachusetts
Transportation Riders United (Detroit)

Tri-State Transportation Campaign
U.S.PIRG
Ulupono Initiative
Union of Concerned Scientists
Virginia Organizing
WakeUP Wake County
WashPIRG
WISPIRG