



March 17, 2017

The Bus Coalition

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Steering Committee

Jeff Hamm, Chairman
C-Tran, Vancouver, WA

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Community Transit,
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OTA, Oklahoma City, OK

Ed Benning
MTA, Flint, MI

Len Engel
AVTA, Lancaster, CA

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member DeFazio:

On behalf of The Bus Coalition's (TBC) membership of over 140 small, medium, and large transit agencies spanning across 36 states, we strongly support your proposed legislation "Investing in America: A Penny for Progress." Your proposal would provide the necessary resources to get our transportation network up to a state of good repair, create new jobs and stimulate economic development throughout our country.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2015 Conditions and Performance Report, the Nation faces an \$836 billion backlog of unmet capital investment needs for highways and bridges, with a need to invest \$142.5 billion per year to improve the conditions and performance of our roads and bridges and address future highway needs. We also face an \$89.8 billion backlog in public transit state of good repair, with the need to invest a minimum of \$26.4 billion per year on maintenance and to accommodate future transit ridership growth.

The Bus Coalition is particularly concerned about the state of our rural, suburban and urban bus transit systems. Between 2009 and 2015, the number of transit buses operating past their useful life increased nearly 40%. The increase in fleet age occurred despite bus grants funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Absent ARRA funds the increase in the number of old buses would have been much greater. We expect the number of older buses on our streets to climb significantly over the coming years as resources have been diverted over time from bus transit programs.

Your proposal would directly benefit our communities, help our systems provide an efficient service and improve transportation access for millions of Americans. Thank you for your leadership and please don't hesitate to contact me at Jeff.Hamm@buscoalition.com if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hamm
Chairman
The Bus Coalition