



November 30, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Thank you for your steadfast support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the successive rounds of unprecedented emergency relief and the tireless efforts of Federal Transit Administration leadership and staff, our agencies were able to keep essential workers connected to their jobs, transit dependent families connected to their communities, and over 100,000 transit workers employed through the most acute phases of the pandemic. While ridership on all our systems has risen, the impacts of the pandemic are lingering and transit agencies large and small are facing a variety of revenue challenges and many are facing a “fiscal cliff,” in some cases within the next two years. For this reason, we urge inclusion of a transit recovery assistance program in the President's fiscal year (FY) 2024 budget.

Safe, reliable, and frequent transit service is essential to harnessing the full economic power of America’s most productive urban areas. Thriving transit networks are also fundamental to achieving our shared equity and climate goals. We are making strides in attracting riders back to transit and adapting to serve riders’ needs in a post-COVID future. But the prospect of revenue deficits in the coming years may force our agencies to make drastic service cuts and lay off tens of thousands of workers. To avoid these draconian measures, we are discussing new revenue streams with our state and local leaders, and it has become clear that a strong State-Federal partnership is necessary.

Given the scale of the projected financial challenge and the vital role we play in equity, sustainability, and creating economic opportunity, we request the U.S. Department of Transportation’s FY 2024 budget include a transit recovery assistance program that would serve as a federal safety net to sustain transit systems across the country. Our agencies agree that transit recovery assistance program funding must be distributed based on demonstrated need and with the expectation that funds be matched with commensurate new state or local revenues and would be above and beyond existing federal funding levels for capital investment authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

We understand the enormity of this ask and recognize the importance of a demonstrated commitment that we and our state and local leaders are doing our part to seek solutions to this crisis. We are confident that strong partnership at all levels of government will ensure that we are funded at a level necessary to keep our communities moving.

We look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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