American Public Transportation Association

Surface Transportation Authorization Policy Priorities

October 22, 2025

On September 14, 2025, APTA's Legislative Committee approved comprehensive *Surface Transportation Authorization Recommendations* for public transit and passenger rail for the next Surface Transportation Authorization Act. **The *Recommendations* urge Congress to provide $138 billion for public transit and $130 billion for passenger rail over five years.**

Public transportation is a $93 billion industry that directly employs more than 430,000 people and supports millions of private-sector jobs.

APTA's *Recommendations* also include dozens of policy proposals (including legislative text) to streamline and improve Federal public transit and passenger rail policy:

- **Streamline Statutory Requirements for Public Transit and Passenger Rail**
  (e.g., simplify Capital Investment Grant requirements, eliminate bus spare ratio requirement)
- **Advance Safety, Security, and Accessibility for Riders, Workers, and Communities**
  (e.g., establish clear Transit CEO executive authority for agency safety)
- **Strengthen Collaborative, Local Decision-making**
  (e.g., ensure public transit voting representation on Metropolitan Planning Organizations)
- **Accelerate Project Delivery and Permitting Reform**
  (e.g., authorize transit agency assumption of environmental responsibility)

Every $1 invested in public transit generates $5 in long-term economic returns.

77 percent of Federal public transit investments flow to the private sector.

Every $1 billion invested in public transportation creates or sustains nearly 50,000 jobs across the entire economy.

APTA urges Congress to:

✓ **Streamline statutory requirements for public transit and passenger rail; advance safety, security, and accessibility; strengthen collaborative decision-making; and accelerate project delivery and permitting reform.**

View APTA's *Surface Transportation Authorization Recommendations*.