



Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

Michael Hursh, General Manager

June 17, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chair
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2164 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

I am writing to express my strong support for the historic levels of bus transit investments included in H.R. 2, the “Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act” (INVEST in America Act). This new infusion of money will help transit agencies upgrade and replace aging fleets and facilities and do so in a way that is environmentally friendly. This investment will ensure we can maintain a level of service that many in our communities depend on to access jobs, health care, education, and other critical destinations.

Buses are the backbone of transit service across America, providing more than one-half of all trips on public transportation. However, largely due to a 57% reduction of federal funding for buses under MAP-21, the amount of buses operating past useful life has increased 48% while buses operating past 15 years increased a staggering 104%. In addition, bus fleet size has shrunk by 22% (16,304 buses) in just four years. The net effect of this loss of crucial funding is that fleets are less reliable, and as a result, public transit is less attractive to riders.

The INVEST in America Act will help transit agencies procure new buses, repair failing infrastructure, and for AC Transit will help us transition to a 100% zero emission fleet, which is anticipated to cost \$2.3 billion. This \$105 billion investment in public transportation overall, with over \$9 billion for bus and bus facility infrastructure, comes just as public transit agencies in California are racing to meet the aggressive deadline of the Innovative Clean Transit Regulation from the California Air Resources Board. In addition to a long-term vision to address the state-of-good-repair backlog in public transit infrastructure, the bill also recognizes the immediate need for public transit agencies to continue to provide essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic and support our nation’s economic recovery.

Overall, the investments into bus infrastructure included in the bill will go a long way toward upgrading and replacing our aging and shrinking bus fleets and facilities, boosting economic growth and helping enhance bus service in all communities across the country. We look

forward to working collaboratively with you and your colleagues on both sides of the aisle as this bill advances through the legislative process. Thank you for your leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,



Michael Hursh
General Manager

Cc: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Congressman Eric Swalwell
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris