



June 16, 2020

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

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

Subject: HR 7095 - Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

On behalf of the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“Capital Metro”) in Austin, Texas, I wish to convey my strong support for H.R. 7095, the “Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act” (INVEST in America Act). Capital Metro runs a large bus operation and a commuter rail line, serving the rapidly growing city of Austin and the surrounding communities of Central Texas.

The INVEST in America Act makes critical investments in surface transportation infrastructure and recognizes the immediate need for public transit agencies to continue to ensure that public transportation can continue to be a lifeline for our essential workers and help our communities rebuild their economies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This transformative investment in public transportation and passenger rail helps our communities meet growing mobility demands, create family-wage jobs, expand U.S. manufacturing and supply chains, and grow the economy. It also puts us on the path to increase access to opportunities for all Americans and build more equitable communities. In addition, the INVEST in America Act addresses the environmental and sustainability challenges facing our communities, nation, and the world.

We strongly support the proposals related to the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program included in the INVEST in America Act. The proposed additional funding and streamlined provisions for the CIG Program are vital to ensuring that communities across the nation, including Central Texas, can meet the mobility needs of Americans.

Earlier this month, Capital Metro’s Board of Directors and the Austin City Council unanimously approved the Project Connect Recommended System Plan, a \$10 billion expansion to our transit network, which would be a significant improvement to our region’s infrastructure. Project Connect is a major investment in equity for the region and will provide access to jobs, healthcare, and education for all Central Texans. By providing high-capacity mobility options and transitioning the agency to a zero-emissions fleet, Project Connect is a key piece of the region’s environmental and sustainability efforts. With Federal support from the CIG Program, these projects make ideal public works initiatives that can help to meet the region’s future mobility needs and put thousands of people to work quickly.

Thank you again for the significant steps forward for transit in the INVEST bill. We at Capital Metro look forward to participating in the legislative process to get a surface transportation authorization enacted into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Clarke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Randy Clarke  
President & CEO  
Capital Metro  
Austin, Texas

**cc:**

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett  
The Honorable John Carter  
The Honorable Michael McCaul  
The Honorable Bill Flores  
The Honorable Roger Williams  
The Honorable Chip Roy