



June 15, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chair
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

On behalf of the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD), I write to commend you and your staffs on the creation of H.R. 2, the "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act" (INVEST in America Act). This bill will improve mobility in the Champaign-Urbana metropolitan area and around the nation.

The INVEST in America Act clearly supports critical transportation projects in cities and towns across America. The bill helps transit agencies, such as ours, in their mission to cultivate communities, improve public health, and enhance quality of life. The bill provides historic levels of bus transit funding, which accounts for more than one-half of all mass transit trips. In the face of an unprecedented crisis, passengers continue to rely on our buses daily to access jobs, healthcare, education, and other opportunities.

In addition to the \$105 billion for public transportation, I also write in strong support of an amendment sponsored by Congresswoman Dina Titus of Nevada that would increase funding for hydrogen buses. Investments in new zero-emission buses and facilities will be critical to our clean air efforts. Furthermore, I appreciate the bill language that addresses formula allocations based on National Transit Database information which will likely be low for fiscal year 2020. Ensuring we receive the appropriate funding will be key to economic recovery as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, thank you for increasing funding for the Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC) Program!

Thank you again for your leadership on mass transit issues. I look forward to working in collaboration with you and the entire House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Karl P. Gnad, Managing Director

Cc: Representative Rodney Davis, Senator Dick Durbin, Senator Tammy Duckworth

