



June 16, 2020

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

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

On behalf of Connect Transit, which serves Bloomington-Normal, IL, I write to thank you and your staff for the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act. This bill will improve mobility throughout our metropolitan area and others across the Nation.

The INVEST in America Act decidedly supports crucial transportation priorities in cities and towns across America. The bill supports our mission to cultivate communities, improve public health, and enhance quality of life through increased connectivity. Bus trips account for more than one-half of all mass transit trips; this bill reaffirms our agency's significance in the midst of this crisis. This bill provides historic funding levels, and enhances access to essential jobs, healthcare, education, and other services.

In addition to the \$105 billion for public transportation, thank you for increasing funding for the Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC) Program. Furthermore, I appreciate the bill language that addresses formula allocations based on National Transit Database information, as transit agencies' performance metrics are significantly impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic and don't properly reflect the transit needs of their communities.

Thank you again for your leadership and support of the mass transit industry. I look forward to working in partnership with you and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as H.R. 2 advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isaac Thorne", written in a cursive style.

Isaac Thorne
General Manager

Cc: Congressman Rodney Davis
Congressman Darin LaHood