March 30, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley:

As you prepare the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, we write to request full funding for the Federal Transit Administration’s Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program, commonly known as New Starts, Small Starts, and Core Capacity, at the fully-authorized level of $3 billion. We also request that you continue to support the dozens of projects under construction or in the CIG pipeline, and urge the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to sign construction grant agreements when project sponsors have met all their requirements to execute the agreement.

While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided $1.6 billion annually in advance appropriations to the CIG program, building a needs-based, efficient, and resilient transportation system requires investing the full authorized discretionary funding. Local taxpayers rely on partnerships with the federal government to develop essential transit projects like those supported by CIG, and this funding is critical to developing a future-oriented transportation system that will meet the needs of our communities to reduce congestion, expand access to economic opportunity, and provide transportation options.

Since the enactment of the IIJA, numerous new projects have entered the CIG pipeline because of this expanded funding opportunity. Once these projects complete an extensive and rigorous multi-year, multi-step review, Congress receives a final opportunity to fund them with a Full Funding Grant Agreement.

The CIG program is critical to building communities and planning these transit investments. It generates regional economic growth, attracts businesses to the project corridor, connects workers to their employers, and relieves freight congestion chokepoints. Today, 22 states have a CIG project in the pipeline, demonstrating the nationwide demand for transit capital investments. Transit project benefits extend well beyond the project corridor, sending $41.8 billion annually, 56 percent of transit expenditures, to the private sector via manufacturers, suppliers, and service firms located in nearly every congressional district in the United States.

We therefore urge you to fund the CIG program at $3 billion in FY 2024, in addition to the $1.6 billion in advance appropriations provided by the IIJA, as well as continue to support projects in
the CIG pipeline and urge the Secretary of Transportation to sign construction grant agreements when project sponsors have met their requirements.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Wiley Nickel
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Dina Titus  
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Steve Cohen  
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Marilyn Strickland  
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Lizzie Fletcher  
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Stephen F. Lynch  
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
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Ro Khanna  
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Jimmy Gomez
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Jamie Raskin
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Angie Craig
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Sara Jacobs
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Eric Swalwell
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Gwen S. Moore
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Deborah K. Ross
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Dean Phillips
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Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenes
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
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Linda T. Sánchez  
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress
Water Resources and Environment

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Summer Lee
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
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Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress
Andrea Salinas  
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Morgan McGarvey  
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David Scott  
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Darren Soto  
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Dwight Evans  
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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

Greg Casar  
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Mike Levin  
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Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress

Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

James A. Himes
Member of Congress